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INSIDE THIS WEEK

Local page A8
Two testify in officer's
bias case

Heartbeat page B3
Officials promote
awareness for sickle cell

Home page B4
Beautifying your home
at the push of a button

NEWS BRIEFS

Long time restaurant
employee murdered in
robbery

EAST ORANGE — A 27-year-old female employee of Wendy's Restaurant in East Orange was changed with the murder of the restaurant's day manager Tanya Benedicta.

Christopher Clark Newark resident who was recently fired by Benedicta for poor performance, was arraigned on charges that he beat and stabbed Benedicta while he was operating the franchise early on the morning of Monday, September 28. A native of the African nation of Cameroon, Benedicta, who worked at the franchise store for 12½ years, had no known relatives in the area. Tony Natto, spokesperson for the Willowbrook Inn, the company that owns the Wendy's franchise, said the company is attempting to contact her family and is accepting expressions of sympathy. All condolences should be sent to F. Natto, Wendy's Willowbrook Inn, 1534 Route 23 North, Wayne, NJ 07470.

Winfrey won't pay for
Monica revelations

CHICAGO — Sticking to her policy of never paying for interviews, talk show host Oprah Winfrey, canceled an interview with controversial Monica Lewinsky.

Winfrey thought she had an exclusive interview, but an hour later Lewinsky's people called back and started talking about who owned rights to sell a tape of the interview in international markets. Although sympathetic to the former intern, Winfrey said, "My feeling was giving up the rights was just someone else paying the check."

A 2nd try for an
Empowerment Zone

NEWARK — Newark is making a second attempt to secure designation as a federal Empowerment Zone, an area that would receive \$100 million in federal funds and tax credits.

In 1993, the city unsuccessfully applied for the Empowerment Zone designation. This year, Newark is competing for one of 15 possible designations that will become available when Congress appropriates money for the program. The designation will also allow the city to issue \$130 in tax-exempt bonds.

Surgery for Yankee
Strawberry

NEW YORK — New York Yankees outfielder Darryl Strawberry is expected to make a complete recovery from colon cancer. Strawberry, 36, had surgery to remove a walnut-sized malignant tumor last Saturday.

A player who won World Series titles with the Yankees and the Red Sox, Strawberry is experiencing problems with alcohol and drugs. "The only thing we can do at this point is pray and realize that some things we think of as important are really insignificant," said team manager Joe Torre.

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Get the news that's relevant to
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community's progress.

Mfume speaks at state NAACP conference

By Deepa Hajela
Associated Press Writer

SOUTH BRUNSWICK, (AP) — An activist Supreme Court that is limiting opportunities with decisions such as those that curtail affirmative action and minority contracting poses the greatest threat to civil rights, NAACP President Kweisi Mfume said Saturday.

Speaking at a press conference before a luncheon at the New Jersey State Conference of NAACP branches, Mfume said the court has been trying to turn back the clock on social issues for the last 10 years, picking up speed with the appointment of Justice Clarence Thomas.

"I don't have problems with judicial activism if I think it's trying to make America better by creating opportunity," Mfume said. "I do have a problem when it's attempting to rewrite social law as this court

has been doing."

He pointed to other decisions, such as one that said congressional districts could not be drawn to enhance power for minority candidates.

"Congressional districts have always been zigzagged ... they've never looked like the great American civil rights," Mfume said. "But it is this court in its judicial activism ... that has narrowed the scope of equal opportunity."

Mfume said the court has made it so that "plaintiffs now must go from proving effects of discrimination to proving the intent of discrimination."

Mfume said the court has introduced legislation that would establish criminal penalties for witnesses who fail to report violent crimes to authorities.

He also said the national

continued on page A5



Nicholas Wiggins, President, New Jersey State Youth and College Division of the NAACP greets NAACP National President Kweisi Mfume before the Conference luncheon.

Payne proposes 'Sherrice's Law'

NEWARK — Assemblyman William Payne announced he has introduced legislation that would establish criminal penalties for witnesses who fail to report violent crimes to authorities.

Payne (D-Essex) said he would seek to have his bill (A-2517) named in honor of Sherrice Iverson, the 7-year-old California girl who was raped and strangled to death in a bathroom stall of a Nevada casino-hotel last year. The girl's murder case has spurred widespread public interest in "good Samaritan" laws that would require bystanders to take action when witnessing a violent crime.

"People have a right to ignore crime, especially when an innocent child is being victimized," said Payne. "All citizens have a duty to call police if they see or hear a violent crime taking place. It's time New Jersey made such a responsibility legally binding."

Payne said he was inspired to introduce the legislation after reading published reports about the strangulation and sexual assault of Sherrice Iverson. The little girl was found dead in a bathroom stall at the Primm Valley Hotel, 43 miles south of Las Vegas, May 25, 1997. Jeremy Strohmeyer, 19, of Long Beach, Cal., has pled guilty to kidnapping, sexually assaulting and

killing Sherrice. He is expected to be sentenced Oct. 14 to four consecutive terms of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The case, however, has spawned a national debate not only because of its depravity, but because of a friend of Strohmeyer — David Cash, Jr. now a sophomore at the University of California, Berkeley — witnessed the girl's kidnapping in the bathroom and then left while Strohmeyer assaulted and killed her. Instead of alerting cash

'Sherrice's Law'

stopped but based on what I saw ... I didn't feel her life was in danger," Cash said.

"I think you are in my opinion, it was like time for me to get out of there," Cash told Bradie. "When an 18-year-old male grabs a 7-year-old child ... that's not a position I want to be in ... it wasn't something that I wanted to stick around and, you know, see what would happen."

Like many Americans, Payne was incensed by the case and the failure of Nevada authorities to charge Cash with a crime.

"In a violent crime such as the one involving Sherrice Iverson, inaction on the part of a witness is a criminal act in itself," said Payne. "Society simply can't tolerate complacency and indifference of David Cash, Jr., which led to the death of this innocent child."

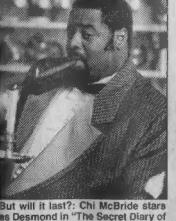
With this bill, New Jersey will join the vanguard of states that have enacted "Good Samaritan" laws as a way of ensuring basic human decency," said Payne.

Cash, who has been relentlessly criticized for his inaction, recently told the national news magazine "60 Minutes" he did not feel he could have done anything differently in the case. He was interviewed by reporter Ed Bradley.

"Technically I could have management or police, Cash made no effort to help the child. Nevada authorities said they could not charge Cash because it is not illegal in the state to witness a crime and do nothing about it."

Cash, who has been relentlessly criticized for his inaction, recently told the national news magazine "60 Minutes" he did not feel he could have done anything differently in the case. He was interviewed by reporter Ed Bradley.

"Technically I could have



The mother of Sherrice Iverson, Yolanda Manuel, at left, is pressing for a national "good Samaritan" bill. New Jersey Assemblyman William Payne, at right, has introduced a bill in the state legislature.

"Pfeiffer" to the comedy "Hogans Heroes." This won't fly either. The fact is that there were American POWs in Nazi prison camps during World War II. They were mistreated and starved, and many died and killed. But, when the war ended they were released and returned to their former lives. Blacks had no such luxury. They were totally stripped of their language, culture and tradition, and bought and sold like cattle.

The sad truth is that

"Desmond Pfeiffer" is the latest and most absurd addition to the long list of TV network assassinations of the Black image. This time we must say, "enough is enough." Tell UPN that slavery is not a laughing matter.

Please, if you demand that "Desmond Pfeiffer" be removed from the air to: Dean Valentine, president, UPN, P.O. Box 251735, Los Angeles, Calif. 90025. Call (310) 575-7000; or fax (310) 575-7201.

Singer Betty Carter, dies

NEW YORK (AP) — Betty Carter, a Grammy-winning singer who worked with great Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie and was known as the godmother of jazz for nurturing young musical talent, died September 26 of pancreatic cancer. She was 69.

Carter was best known to fans for her signature singing style —

... a long, improvisational, and unusual approach to songs that included seat-singing and a variety of movements and bouncing syncopations agains

Betty Carter

every year.

beat but the expected one.

It's the style that helped catapult her 1961 duet with Ray Charles, "It's Cold Outside," to a jazz classic.

Carter also was known as a nurturing but demanding grandmother to successive jazz generations. She once said she tried to teach young musicians to respond to their audience and keep their music original.

Her contemporaries included pianist John Hicks and Mulgrew Miller, bassists Buster Williams and Dave Holland, and drummers Jack DeJohnette and Lewis Nash.

In 1993, Carter founded Jazz Ahead, a music program that brings about 20 young musicians from across the country to New York every year during spring break, all capped by a weekend of concerts.

Carter grew up in Detroit, where she studied at the Detroit Conservatory of Music. When she was just 16, Carter was singing in jazz clubs with Parker, Gillespie, Miles Davis and Max Roach. She started singing professionally with Louis Hampton's orchestra at age 18.

In the late 1960s, she founded her own label, Bet-Car, which produced such classic recordings as the Grammy-nominated "The Audience with Betty Carter."

Carter supported herself by releasing albums, touring and hitting the night circuit. In 1988, Vogel offered her a contract, releasing the Grammy-winning "Look What I've Got" and reissuing her four earlier Bet-Car albums on CD.

She was a Best female jazz vocalist Grammy award in 1988. President Clinton gave her a National Medal of Arts in 1997.

Slavery is a laughing matter to UPN

By Ofari Hutchinson, Ph.D.
NNPA Correspondent

As the Civil War raged in July 1863, President Abraham Lincoln told a group of Black men at the White House: "I think your race suffers greatly, many of them by living among us, while ours suffers from your presence. It affords a reason at least why we should be separated." This wasn't the first time that Lincoln publicly advocated racial separation. In countless speeches he made it clear that if he could save the Union "without freeing any slave" he would do it.

Ultimately he grudgingly freed some slaves, but only as a war time measure.

And even then he was careful to reiterate Whites that he did not believe in racial equality for Blacks, and if he had to, he would ship the whole lot of them to Africa or an island in the Caribbean.

Yet in the comedy, "The Secret Diary of Desmond Pfeiffer" that made its debut Oct. 5 on the UPN network, we are asked to believe that a black man sits in the big chair at the White House as a principal advisor to Lincoln. He keeps in mind this is BEFORE the passage of the 13th Amendment in 1865 which formally abolished slavery.



The UPN farce not only stands history on its head, it dismantles it. The producers trot out two shop-worn lines to justify this historical absurdity. The chief one is that

comedy, and that history, even its painful episodes, are fair game for parody. The other claim is that many Blacks who have seen the tapes of the pilot find nothing wrong with it. Both are self-serving and ridiculous claims.

The other, more serious, problem with satirizing historical events is there is everything wrong with falsifying them. There is not a fig of historic truth in the idea that Lincoln — or any 19th century presi-

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

PLAINFIELD—The Literacy Volunteers of America will take applications for volunteers in their reading literacy program at the Plainfield Library beginning at 6 p.m. (908) 758-7795.

JERSEY CITY—Hudson County Community College Department of Continuing Education will offer courses in flower design beginning at 6 p.m. (201) 714-2107.

TRENTON—NASA will host program on space travel and the importance of learning mathematics and science at the New Jersey State Museum beginning at 10 a.m. (609) 292-6300.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

JERSEY CITY—New Jersey City University will host a conference for school administrators and the public on "Equal Educational Standards: Achievement in All Schools" at the Student Union Building beginning at 8:30 a.m. (201) 200-3428.

HOLMDEL—The Monmouth County Park System will hold a nature program on fly casting at the Holmdel Pond beginning 5:30 p.m. (732) 842-4000.

NEWARK—Rutgers University will host a discussion on arts and the urban influence at the Robeson Art Gallery beginning at 11 a.m. (973) 353-8200.

NEW YORK—The U.S. Department of Transportation will host a conference on women in leadership at JFK International Airport beginning at 10 a.m.

JERSEY CITY—The Department of Music and Dance at New Jersey City University will host the dance of the Alfonso-Hall Dance Workshop at Fries Hall beginning at 4 p.m. (201) 200-2425.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

PLAINFIELD—The Fire Department will hold its annual Fire Prevention Fair at the Hug Stire Athletic Field beginning at 10:30 a.m. (908) 753-3446.

WAYNE—William Paterson University will host a Art at Lunch series beginning at 11:30 a.m. (973) 720-2654.

JERSEY CITY—The Department of Continuing Education of Hudson County Community College will offer a course in forensic accounting beginning at 9:30 a.m. (201) 714-2107.

EAST ORANGE—Jew Books inc. presents its annual book fair at the East Orange Public Library beginning at 2 p.m. (973) 672-0304.

MONMOUTH COUNTY—The Monmouth County Park System will host a train ride to the Amish farmland beginning at 8 a.m. (732) 842-4000.

UPPER MONTCLAIR—Montclair State University will offer courses in computer training at Date Quest Systems in Calif. (973) 655-4953.

NEWARK—The Newark Public Library will show a video screening of the Puerto Rican migration to Hawaii at the auditorium beginning at 2 p.m. (973) 733-7789.

PLAINFIELD—The Arc of Union County will hold its 3rd Annual Walk in the Park beginning at 9 a.m. (908) 754-7626.

LINCOLN—The Monmouth County Park System will host a trip to New York's Guggenheim Museum beginning at 9 a.m. (732) 842-4000.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

JERSEY CITY—The Department of Continuing Education of Hudson County Community College will offer courses in traveling through computer beginning at 6 p.m. (201) 714-2107.

PLAINFIELD—The Senior Citizens Service Center will host a trip up to West Point, NY. For information call (908) 753-3506.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

NEWARK—The Newark Museum will offer a course in kente weaving beginning at 10 a.m. (973) 696-6638.

JERSEY CITY—The Department of Continuing Education of Hudson County Community will offer a course in child safety and how to operate a child care center beginning at 6:30 p.m. (201) 714-2107.

LINCOLN—The Monmouth County Park System will host a江山 Hall Folio Tour to Thompson Park beginning at 9 a.m. (732) 842-4000.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

JERSEY CITY—The Department of Continuing Education will offer a course on "Forests Children's Self-Esteem" beginning at 6 p.m. (201) 714-2185.

BERKELEY HEIGHTS—Hell Printing Services of Berkeley Heights will host a seminar on photography called "Scanning and Photoshop" at the Somerset Hills Hotel. For more information, call (908) 655-1700 for time.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

BELLEVILLE—The Resource Center for Women and Their Families will hold its 20th Anniversary candlelight vigil outside the County Courthouse in Somerville beginning at 6 p.m. (908) 399-6538.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

FREEHOLD—The Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County will host a theater workshop for middle and high school students called "Performing for Real Life" at the H-Center beginning at 9:30 a.m. (732) 431-7263.

SCOTCH PLAINS—The Union County Magnet School for science, mathematics, and technology will host its first informational session for interested applicants to the school at Magnet High School beginning at 10 a.m. (908) 889-2900.

NEWARK—The Newark Museum will host its second annual volunteer program beginning at 11 a.m. (973) 596-6538.

JERSEY CITY—Hudson County Community College Department of Continuing Education will offer an Adult HeartSaver course beginning at 10 a.m. (201) 714-2107.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

ATLANTIC CITY—Eight time Boston and New York Marathon winner, Bill Rodgers, will face Olympic Marathon winner Frank Shorter in a 5k race held as part of the 39th Annual Atlantic City Marathon. Marathon, 10-K, 5K and 2-mile walk/health. Come along and join in the fun, and watch two of the world's greatest face each other. Call 609-601-11UN.

FREEHOLD—The Monmouth County Park System present its annual Turkey Swamp Park Day beginning at 11 a.m. (732) 524-4000.

CUNY—The Hudson Museum will host two exhibits by local sculptors by local artists beginning at 2 p.m. (908) 735-8415.

JERSEY CITY—The Hudson County Community College Department of Continuing Education will offer a course in flower arranging beginning at 3:30 p.m. (201) 714-2107.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

CLARK—The Clark Public Library will host the third annual poetry evening beginning at 7:30 p.m. (732) 389-5999.

NEWARK—The Newark Literacy Campaign will hold meetings with potential volunteers at Newark Public Library beginning at 6:10 p.m. (973) 623-4001.

PLAINFIELD—The Swain Galleries will present an exhibit of Mark DeMoss beginning at 4 p.m. (908) 758-1707.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

TRONTO—The New Jersey Business and Industry Association will host an environmental workshop on compliance rules at the Masonic Temple beginning at 9 a.m. (609) 393-7707.

TRENTON—The NJ Chamber of Commerce will hold a Governor's Conference on Women. Economic Power to Power at Atlantic City Convention Center beginning at 7:30 a.m. (609) 424-7775.

JERSEY CITY—The Department of Music and Dance will host the African Dance Workshop at the Fries Hall beginning at 4 p.m. (201) 200-2425.

UPPER MONTCLAIR—The 16th Annual Educators Conference on Gifted Education will hold its annual event at the Valley Regency Caters beginning at 8 a.m. (973) 334-6991.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

UPTON—The Union County Department of Economic Development presents a Heritage Festival during the weekend of the 24th and 25th. Call (908) 558-2550 for time and location.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

JERSEY CITY—The Department of Continuing Education will offer a course on "Forest Children's Self-Esteem" beginning at 6 p.m. (201) 714-2185.

Maya Angelou speaks to African-American Women on Tour



Author Dr. Maya Angelou (second left) was the keynote speaker at the African-American Women on Tour Conference in Atlanta. The organization is the premier empowerment group of black women in the U.S. Joining Dr. Angelou were tour founder Maria Dowd (left), Tammy Smalls (second right), ethnic marketing director with Kellogg's, and tour guest Robbie Shumert.

Booker tours occupational center



Pictured l-r: during a recent tour of the First Occupational Center of New Jersey (OCNJ) are Rocco J. Meda, OCNJ President and CEO and Cory Booker, Newark Councilman-Central Ward.

Cooper joins youth panel



East School Board President Diane Cooper (top) recently joined Governor Whitman panel on youth violence in New Jersey's School. The panel was developed by the governor to find solutions to enhance school safety. Below Mrs. Cooper answers questions from the media after the panel first meeting at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark.

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We realize that our future lies chiefly in our own hands. We know that neither institution nor friends can make a race stand unless it has strength in its own foundation; that races like individuals must stand or fall by their own merit; that to fully succeed they must practice the virtues of self-reliance, self-respect, industry, perseverance, and economy.

— Paul Robeson

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EDITORIAL

This Bill is right on time

Bill Payne is to be congratulated for stepping to the plate with legislation to protect children from sexual deviates, predators and grown-ups who would otherwise abuse them. As Assembly Bill 253, it protects all of our children just as their children do and makes us all of us shaking our heads in disgust. Assemblyman Payne has not only done a great service to the citizens of New Jersey, but he has helped to make this state a part of what is predicted to be a national push for child protection.

The point of this bill, as well as the whole situation, is that people just can't look the other way when someone's life is in danger. This is especially true in the case of the most vulnerable in our society — children, the elderly, the physically or mentally impaired — those who are at a distinct disadvantage over individuals who see them as prey. People who witness life-threatening crimes and fail to report them are criminals of omission. Assemblyman Payne has not only done a great service to the citizens of New Jersey, but he has helped to make this state a part of what is predicted to be a national push for child protection legislation.

Payne's bill is the kind that also does its job. It is the kind that we hope for the rest of us. Prompted by a captivating incident that took place here in New Jersey, he came forward with similar legislation to punish a crime's "passive participants," those who are with the perpetrator and witness the crime, and do nothing.

There is no advancement without active participation. Those who "don't want to get involved" are the ones who add nothing to our society. Those who see or know crimes committed should not get off scot-free, because, as David Cash said, "That's not a position I want to be in." For him and others like him, the position should be jail.

Ensuring that school days are safe days

By Daniel P. Sullivan
Chairman of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Across the nation, children and families have settled into a familiar routine at school: the school schedule, homework, lunches, sports and after-school activities. But as this school year begins there is an added tension among parents, teachers and children — the fear of crime, drugs and violence in our schools.

Violence and crime in our schools is a legitimate concern for parents, children and educators. According to the National School Safety Center, 42 individuals were killed in schools across the nation during the 1997-1998 school year, up from 25 the year before. Of particular concern, according to the organization's report, were the 19 multiple killings which took place in the last school year.

According to the center's report, all year, violence in schools occurs all sorts of ways: from the school bus to school rooms, among wealth and disadvantaged districts, at all grade levels. It warns parents not to assume "it can't happen here."

"Such violence is less a function of the location of the school and perhaps more a function of the type of media, television and computers — and to some extent, movies — bring communities ... news of the latest crimes and the technology available for making and using weapons of destruction," the report says.

Do standardized tests add up?

By Lisa Rose Blanchette

As a teacher preparing to enter my 11th year at the front of the classroom, I feel the need to comment about the weight placed on standardized test scores. It's not about improving the students. Instead, it is all about getting more money.

A standardized test has little to do with curriculum. Its authors work for a testing company, not any school district. The test is based on whatever textbook(s) the writers follow, regardless of the actual classroom usage of those texts.

Textbooks are written by people in the education field. Since there is no national curriculum, those writers must necessarily broaden the scope of their books to encompass different state standards. A textbook series never covers every aspect of a subject. There is always a level, and they always have extraneous information. This handicaps new teachers and those teachers who are neither creative nor resourceful. One can see the problem inherent in such a system.

Standardized tests are not only what a child is capable of doing on a particular day. Any number of distractions could affect how a student scores on the day of the test: a student may not feel well, may have had a fight with someone or may not have eaten breakfast that morning. Someone who ignores

the "Testing Do Not Eat" sign on the day could end up achieving worse. Some children may become fatigued up with how much we test them and make pretty pictures while filling in the bubble sheets rather than actually reading and thinking. Most, though, do try.

Despite how hard students try, however, test scores are very hard to do with what a child actually knows. You are sometimes an indicator of a child's learning disabilities or giftedness, but those qualities will show up in the classroom without the aid of testing. More sophisticated and specific tests can be administered to better evidence those qualities to confirm any classroom suspicion.

We say that the money goes to the programs that work, but I have seen no evidence. I have seen test scores change by a school that wanted certain programs to succeed, repeat the same national terrorist and that "an effective program for intelligence gathering" was necessary for the national interest. But he also knew controls were necessary. So his executive order came in to officials of the intelligence agencies, CIA and FBI and secretaries of state, treasury and defense. Then he instituted a board — independent of the White House and intelligence agencies — to oversee the intelligence community.

OPINION

Wither the Congressional Black Caucus?

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) met last month for its annual mix of merry-making and political strategizing, but the big question facing the group's 39 members is what, if anything, can be done to save the organization's slide into political oblivion.

That slide began in 1994 when the Republicans assumed near total domination of the House of Representatives. They slashed congressional funds for Caucus foundations, abolished the Post Office, Civil Rights, and District of Columbia Committees, which had sizable numbers of black members; reduced the size of all standing committees, costing blacks to lose seats on several important policy-making committees and eliminated 600 congressional staff positions, many of whom were held by blacks. The slide accelerated in 1997 when the CBC suffered a crushing defeat in its battle to prevent Congress from lopping off billions in funding for social programs.

The CBC chose outspokeswoman Maxine Waters in an effort to halt the slide. But Waters' fiery political credentials couldn't change the fact that the body is squeezed hard between a politically giddy Clinton administration and a Congress that is both internally divided and intransigent, an adverse Supreme Court ruling that tossed out radical redistricting, the continuing assault on affirmative action, and social programs often aided and abetted by Clinton, conservative Democrats and a fragmented, and politically inert Black America.

The decision to do away with separate districts isn't the death knell for Black political representation that some blacks claim. But it does mean that African-American voters will need widespread support to win offices, and they cannot get that support by catering exclusively to black interests. This changing political reality was evident in 1997 when the CBC announced that it would make the battle against crime and drugs its

top priority. Then the CBC announced that it would keep the support of Clinton and Democratic leaders, and politically energize blacks. It sounds like a lot to do, but that's the only way the organization can halt its slide into permanent oblivion.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is the author of "The Crisis in Black and Black."

Fighting terrorism taints

By Carolyn L. Bennett

Promoting peaceful resolution to conflict in U.S. classrooms while gleefully supporting bombings of Afghanistan and Sudan and urging U.S. agents to kill alleged terrorist Osama bin Laden must be confusing to school children.

When you fight terrorism, you become a terrorist. And bin Laden was quoted as saying in a recent issue of *The Economist* magazine.

Engaged in the fight against conventional insurrections are almost invariably terrorist organizations and their opponents," a reporter said.

Recently, ABC news headlined "plots to kill the president" implicating Osama bin Laden, and some organization leaders called for his assassination. The head of the National Organization of Independent Women's Forum denounced Clinton's morals on C-SPAN, and in almost the same breath said:

They came after "our guy" so we should go after them. A former governor of Maine and a former member of the Senate and a former senator from Maine, and he was destroyed, starting exploitation of domestic and foreign workers and their human and natural resources, and helping other nations, as they see their need, with useful aid and lasting economic development.

Peace requires a certain maturity, a change in attitude that we do not consistently demonstrate in our people, the press and government leadership. Others often see us more clearly than we see ourselves.

Education is not only a right, or to the rest of us," he said. "It is not the noblest, finest, most decent society that ever was....[And] for all the talk about all people having been created equal, [it] has not learned to live up to that equality with friends, has not as a nation expanded the hand of compassion."

"[Upon] a simplistic habit of mind, it is incapable of grasping the shared humanity of strangers."

Carolyn L. Bennett is a columnist living in Old Town, Maine.

What is your opinion? We want to know.

To facilitate the printing of your response, please limit your correspondence to 400 typewritten, double-spaced words. Submissions are subject to editing for clarity and length of space

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Do not be distracted

by Starr's wars

By Dr. Yvonne Scruggs-Leftright

Question #3: Would we know — or, not being his wife, care even — about President Clinton's private behavior with Monica Lewinsky if Kenneth Starr had not been assigned to the task? What about Ms. Lewinsky's right-wing "friend" Linda Tripp? How does this private behavior affect the President's governance of our priority issues? Even as we acknowledge that Starr's private behavior was deplorable, can we afford the time and the expense which Kenneth Starr's investigation into this private matter has cost this country — and the African-American community?

Question #4: Do African Americans need to show by our voter participation at the polls in November, how much we resent the perceived priorities of those invested in such smut as the Starr Report? Do African Americans — especially our young voter turnout in November, that we, also, are heavily invested in making this government responsive to our needs and to anyone's private sexual proclivities or voyeuristic obsessions?

Question #5: Have we actually asked that question: Is the "Starr's Way" report and its recommendations good for the African-American community? Are we prepared and informed on the substantive (not sex-related) issues, so that we can ask the following questions? Can we follow through on our community's "If I vote for you, who will help you act in the best interest of my community?"

Even if we and our top priority issues are the inadvertent victims, blacks — among all people — know only well what our own experience tells us: how effective a "Gorchas" scenario can be. Many African Americans have been there before. We must take a very deep breath and insist on measured answers to these questions. We must also vote our own priorities as never before.

Dr. Yvonne Scruggs-Leftright is the Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Black Leadership Forum, Inc.

Breaking the miseducation cycle

By Dr. Conrad W. Worrill

One of the most important challenges we face as a people, is to continue the miseducation of the contributions of African people from ancient times to the present in all subjects — such as mathematics, science, social studies, language arts, and music.

When we use the term education it means that we do not teach the truth, that is, we do not teach the history of Africa through the world has been told through the slavery experience — only a short period in our life, considering that we are the oldest of the world's peoples.

Because we see ourselves often influences what we do about ourselves, the role of education in controlling our thoughts and actions is more important now than ever. In the last 50 years, the history of Africa through the world has been told through the slavery experience — only a short period in our life, considering that we are the oldest of the world's peoples.

Because African Americans, as Dr. Carter G. Woodson pointed out in "The Miseducation of the Negro" in 1933, that we have undergone a tremendous miseducation.

Consider a few points that this book addresses. This book should be required reading for all African people in America interested in the upliftment of the dr. Woodson's analysis is still relevant today. Woodson said, "The most important thing of information is education. Above all things, the effort must result in making a man or woman think and do for himself or herself just as the Jews have done in spite of universal persecution."

Woodson also said, "that roughly one-half of the Negroes in America who advocate for the Negro a son of education different in some respects from that now given the white man. Negroes who have been so long

inconvenienced and denied opportunities for development are naturally afraid of anything that sounds like discrimination. They are anxious to prove that the white man has even if it is harmful."

Because we see ourselves often influences what we do about ourselves, the role of education in controlling our thoughts and actions is more important now than ever. In the last 50 years, the history of Africa through the world has been told through the slavery experience — only a short period in our life, considering that we are the oldest of the world's peoples.

Because African Americans, as Dr. Carter G. Woodson pointed out in "The Miseducation of the Negro" in 1933, that we have undergone a tremendous miseducation.

Obviously this has caused great harm to African people and is at the core of the miseducation cycle we must break.

We must break the miseducation cycle. One way you can help in the continued movement to break this vicious cycle is to contact and participate in minority educational efforts for Dr. Clarke. Our survival as a people is dependent on recapturing the African mind. Only the recapturing of the African mind will lead to the destruction and breaking of this miseducation cycle.

Dr. Conrad Worrill is the National Chairman of the National Black United Front.

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Crossing the Civil Rights Bridge: 1900-2000

Attendees enjoy NAACP State Convention luncheon



Mfume speaks at state NAACP conference

continued from page one

NAACP supported new state efforts to stop racial profiling. Minority drivers have complained that New Jersey State Police disproportionately pull over minority drivers on the state's roadways.

In April on the New Jersey Turnpike, two state troopers fired their shotguns at the feet of three young black men and one Hispanic man they said were trying to run the officers over.

The young men have disputed that account, saying they were running away because of their race, and that the officers had no reason to begin firing.

The shooting prompted rail-

ies, and black leaders held a meeting with state authorities to discuss the situation as well as the need for more minorities hired in state police.

Since that meeting, Gov. Christie Whitman and U.S. Sen. Robert Torricelli have vowed to find dollars to equip State Police cars with video cameras to help document exactly what happens when a trooper pulls someone over.

"What we believe we have to do more than anything else is bring attention to it, so I talk about it wherever I go," Mfume said.

He talked about the push to stop racial profiling in Maryland, and how authorities there moved to make changes

once public pressure was brought to bear on them.

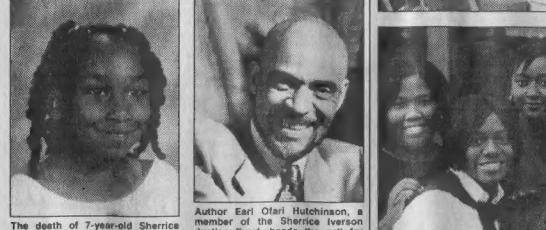
"We hope the same pressure is brought to New Jersey so that it stops," Mfume said.

"It's wrong, it shouldn't take place."

As long as it takes place, it creates a barrier between

police and citizens."

Saying that "the connection and the continuity of the Civil Rights Bridge must not be interrupted," Elaine Harrington, president of the New Jersey State Conference of NAACP Branches said the state conference theme, "Crossing the Civil Rights Bridge 1900-2000" would appropriately navigate the Civil Rights journey from the 20th Century into the 21st Century and the next millennium.



Payne

continued from page one

A crime witness who fails to report a crime would be guilty of a fourth-degree offense, which is punishable by up to 18 months in jail and \$10,000 in fines.

The bill was placed on the Assembly's proposed list on Monday, September 28, and signed to a committee on October 5, its first step toward becoming law.

Assembly Associate Minority Leader Charles "Ken" Zisa (D-Bergen), who also serves as police chief of Hackensack, has signed onto the bill as Payne's co-prime sponsor.

An identical version of the bill has been introduced in the state Senate by senators Joseph Vitale (D-Woodbridge) and John Bennett (R-Monmouth). Vitale has said he introduced the Senate bill in

response to a 31-year-old Woodbridge woman who was beaten during an attempted carjacking on the driveway outside her home in August.

Journalist and author Earl Ofari Hutchinson heads the Sherice Iverson Memorial Fund with Iverson's mother, Yolanda Manus. They have gathered more than 30 organizations in support towards passage of a national "good Samaritan" bill. Hutchinson was recently interviewed on the Pacifica network radio program "Building Bridges" about the case and anticipated developments in support of a National bill.

"Experience in New Jersey has shown us that we risk tragedies similar to what happened to Sherice Iverson in Nevada if a good Samaritan law is not placed on the books," said Payne.

Author Earl Ofari Hutchinson, a member of the Sherice Iverson Justice Fund, heads the call for national child protection legislation.

The death of 7-year-old Sherice Iverson has sparked national concern and outrage.

NJ State lawmakers search for ways to prevent youth violence

By Wendy Ruderman
Associated Press Writer

TRENTON (AP) — School shootings splintered communities across the country in the last school year so state lawmakers are searching for ways to prevent New Jersey's children from killing.

"America is one big pond," Assemblyman Mark DiGiacomo-Candlers said Wednesday. "So troubles in one part of the pond make tidal waves across the rest of the pond. So we need to be worried if children in Arkansas or some other place are doing this because they're watching what's happening; they're listening to the same music."

Shootings took place last year in Jonesboro, Ark.; Paducah, Ky.; Springfield, Ore.; Pearl, Miss.; and Edinboro, Pa.

Previte serves on the new

Assembly Task Force on Adolescent Violence, which held its first public meeting Wednesday.

The task force was created to study acts of random adolescent violence and to champion legislation to deter or reduce such violence.

"We don't have the answer," said Assemblyman Paul DiGiacomo-Candlers, who also serves on the

"What we're trying to do here is see if something additional can be done that will prevent and forestall some of what we've seen in other states."

Studies show New Jersey's young people are the ingredients needed to kill.

Dr. Michael B. Greene, executive director of the Violence Institute of New Jersey, testified that a 1997 survey found seven out of every 10 New Jersey high school students said they carried a weapon, such as gun, knife or club,

to school within the 30 days prior to being polled. About 2,000 students were interviewed in May 1997.

Anecdotes and news stories tell of children who are empty and angry enough to act on those feelings.

"I deal with children every day who kill," said Previte, who runs the maximum security Juvenile Union Youth Center. "I've seen children who come say, 'We're going to close our eyes and pull a gun on the second car that goes by this light.' How could a person do a thing like that and feel no remorse? That remorse disappeared long ago."

So what can be done to keep children from using those weapons and feelings to cook up devastating violence either in or out of school?

During the task force meeting, lawmakers got an earful from several juvenile justice experts.

Assembly Task Force on Adolescent Violence, which held its first public meeting Wednesday.

The measure (A-2326) would allow qualified aged and disabled New Jersey citizens to receive either a 34-day supply or 100 doses of prescription medication per month, whichever amount is greater. The fiscal year 1999 budget had limited recipients to a maximum supply of 34 days, effectively forcing

recipients who take a pill a day to pay three times more than they were used to paying.

"Under the new PAAD pricing policy, program clients are charged a \$5 co-payment for a 34-day supply of medicine," said Conway (D-Burlington), the Assembly's only physician/lawyer. "This constitutes

a dramatic cost burden for elderly and disabled people who previously had the option of paying \$5 for 100 doses, which often translated into a three-month supply of medicine.

According to Assemblyman Richard Bagger (R-Union), the Budget Committee Chairman, the idea to reduce the amount of PAAD

isn't convinced that a harsher juvenile justice system is not the way to go. He believes such tactics thwart adult crime, but he's not so sure children respond the same way, he said.

Paul Donnelly, executive director of the state Juvenile Justice Commission, told DiGiacomo that threatening children with tougher punishment doesn't work because "they live in the 'now' without care for the future."

Previte said if lawmakers don't listen to experts perhaps they'll hear the cry of taxpayers.

"I hope said taxpayers need to know that the cost of prison is less than jail. It costs about \$80,000 a year to keep one inmate at Valentine Hall, the secure facility for young women in Bordentown, she said.

"We're paying enormous costs for our failures," she said.

Israel and others said schools, community groups, families and religious organizations need lawmakers to give them the resources and tools to teach children how to deal with confrontation, control their anger, avoid bad relationships and seek mediation and help from professionals.

Provite doesn't need convincing. But she's up against some legislators who believe stiffer penalties and longer prison sentences will deter youth violence.

After listening to three hours of testimony, DiGiacomo said he still

had questions about the proposed legislation.

"This policy change didn't originate in the Legislature, but the issue deserves a speedy legislative remedy," said Gill. The Whitman administration's change is proving costly and inconvenient to PAAD's elderly recipients, most of whom

are on extremely limited incomes," said Conway. "Moreover, senior citizens are entitled to benefits paid by a government-imposed policy change that was enacted in a haphazard manner. The Legislature should rectify this situation by passing our bill as quickly as possible."

"We're paying enormous costs for our failures," she said.

Bill to restore PAAD program introduced by Gill and Conway

TRENTON — Assemblyman Herbert C. Conway, Jr., and Assemblywoman Nia Gill recently announced that they have introduced legislation to restore the Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) program to its previous dosage funding levels.

The measure (A-2326) would allow qualified aged and disabled New Jersey citizens to receive either a 34-day supply or 100 doses of prescription medication per month, whichever amount is greater. The fiscal year 1999 budget had limited recipients to a maximum supply of 34 days, effectively forcing

recipients who take a pill a day to pay three times more than they were used to paying.

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New Jersey awarded child welfare demonstration project

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senator Robert G. Torricelli (D-N.J.) announced today that New Jersey will be the site of one of ten highly competitive child welfare demonstration programs chosen by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The demonstration project will use previously-existing programs to create a highly innovative program to streamline adoption procedures and smooth children's transitions from foster care to adoptive homes.

Under the Adoption and Safe Families Act, HHS is authorized to approve up to ten demonstrations each year for five years. HHS has encouraged states to develop programs in several key areas: increasing adoptions of special needs children, promoting community-based services to prevent child abuse and neglect, improving the access to needed health

and mental health services, and programs to meet the needs of American Indian children.

New Jersey's project grew out of an Adoption and Permanence grant HHS awarded two years ago. The state will now establish the successful aspects of the project on a more permanent basis. A special unit within the state's Adoption Resource Centers will begin the process of finding permanent placement for children at the same time a foster care plan is being developed, thereby avoiding long delays and repetitive actions. The state will also recruit and prepare families that can provide both foster care and adoptive homes to ease the short notice. Legal and substance abuse services will also be available.

"Demonstration projects are a wonderful way to cultivate new ideas and expand those that are successful," said Torricelli. "Not only will New

Jersey better prepared to serve its own adopted children, it will now be in a position to share its innovative ideas with the rest of the country.

Senator Robert Torricelli is smiling as New Jersey will be one of ten states to participate in a new child welfare program to get kids out of poverty.

Jersey better prepared to serve its own adopted children, it will now be in a position to share its innovative ideas with the rest of the country.

NJ State cancels contract for traffic accident data with private firm

TRENTON (AP) — The state transportation department has moved to cancel a \$2.2 million contract with a private computer firm that collects traffic accident data, saying the firm hasn't done any work since July.

State Treasury officials said Monday that the agency seeking \$85,000 in penalties from NetTech Solutions of Rockaway, which was awarded the three-year contract in February 1997 to process four years of information.

State transportation officials have said privately that data collected by NetTech Solutions from 1993 to 1995 were reward-

able. The information is used to help state officials seek federal safety funding and better identify highway trouble spots.

Union leaders who opposed the contract renewed their criticism Monday.

"These things collapse because there is an overwhelming ideological and political desire to put this work into private hands without forethought," Jim Markett, president of the Transportation Department local union.

Transportation Department officials had called for an audit of all Transportation Department contracts, including the one with NetTech, in June.

Critics have also accused the Whitman administration of replacing state workers with private firms owned by political allies.

When NetTech sought to change its contract last year from \$1.5 million to \$2.2 million, the firm hired Alman Management, a Westfield lobbying

firm founded by George Albanese and Edward McGlynn, two high-ranking officials in the administration of former Republican Gov. Thomas Kean.

NetTech officials were not immediately available for comment Monday.

Treasury spokesman Jason Mozloom said that despite the problems with NetTech, privatization has generally been successful in New Jersey.

"It will cost us a little more to bring (the accident data collection) back in-house," Mozloom told The Star-Ledger of Newark. "It's unfair to make generalizations about privatization, simply because one project doesn't work out."

Mozloom said the state has privatized some eight to 10 tasks, including such functions as processing tax forms about 100,000 individual taxpayers of about \$35 million per year.

On balance, it has worked out. Has it worked out in every single case? No it has not," Mozloom said.

NJ Casino redevelopment agency suffers setback on property cost

ATLANTIC CITY — The state Casino Redevelopment Authority has been forced to pay four times what it offered for a parcel of land it seized as part of a massive blight-clearing initiative.

In the fourth such case since 1995, a jury told the state Casino Redevelopment Authority it seriously undervalued Marks' Beer Garden, a bar that stood at the corner of Arctic and Michigan avenues for decades.

Retired school teacher Sadie Marks, whose husband owned the bar, had asked for \$1.6 million. The CRDA offered \$419,000.

A Superior Court jury last week

found for Marks, awarding her the full \$1.6 million. The CRDA's offer was based on the fact that the property would be next to the \$268 million Atlantic City Convention Center, the jury said.

It is not the first time a CRDA offer has been found to be too low. In 1993, Superior Court Judge Richard J. Williams ruled that the CRDA's property appraisals were "fundamentally unfair and wrong" because they didn't take into account the convention center's impact on the value of the land.

Most of the 100 property owners have settled out of court. Of six who went to trial, four were rewarded with jury verdicts ordering the

CRDA to pay far more than it had originally offered.

In the latest case, the CRDA was ordered to pay \$8.1 million for property it appraised at \$2.9 million for Marks.

Peter Manahan, a lawyer for the CRDA, said the agency would continue to argue that the convention center's location should have no bearing on the value of the property.

"Different juries take the same evidence and draw different conclusions," Manahan said.



"Stiffer penalties would be counterproductive, costly and won't address the problem of youth in the juvenile justice system," said Michael Israel, a juvenile justice professor at Kean University in Union. "The biggest failure of all is prison."

Israel and others said schools, community groups, families and religious organizations need lawmakers to give them the resources and tools to teach children how to deal with confrontation, control their anger, avoid bad relationships and seek mediation and help from professionals.

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

PRINCETON—Technology New Jersey will host a financial institutions seminar beginning at 8 a.m. at the Princeton Hyatt Regency. (609) 419-4444.

NEW BRUNSWICK—The New Jersey State Bar Foundation will present a free public seminar on bankruptcy law at a New Jersey Law Center beginning at 7 p.m. (732) 937-7518.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

PRINCETON—Princeton Softech and AlanticHealth Systems will sponsor a health care insurance breakfast seminar at the Princeton Hyatt Regency. (609) 419-4444.

NEW YORK—The Professional Women in Construction will hold a business networking event of real estate development at the Ramada Hotel in Manhattan beginning at 6 p.m. (212) 687-0610.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

EDISON—The New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners will hold a meeting on women business owners at the Clarion Hotel beginning at 8 p.m. (732) 651-1495.

CARONDALE—Union County College will hold a business seminar on management strategies at the Cranford Campus beginning at 7 p.m. (908) 709-7503.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

NEW BRUNSWICK—Technology New Jersey will host a breakfast seminar on the future of New Brunswick Hyatt Regency beginning at 8 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

EAST HANOVER—The Exceptional Assistant Inc. will host a seminar on secretarial and support groups at the Ramada Hotel.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

NEW YORK—The NYU Business Department will host a seminar on understanding the U.S. economy beginning at 9 a.m. (212) 998-7070.

UNION—The Union County Economic Development Corporation will offer free training programs on basic business needs at the Union County Convention Center beginning at 1 p.m. (908) 627-1166.

JERSEY CITY—The Jersey City Economic Development Corporation will present financial seminar geared to local business owners at the Lowe's Theater beginning at 6:30 a.m. (201) 332-7797.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

NEW YORK—The National Minority Business Council will host the New York State Global Trade 2000 seminar at the Pfizer Conference Center, Call the Business Council for Information.

TRENTON—The New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing will hold a meeting of housing and rules in Princeton. Call (609) 429-4533 for location and time.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

ATLANTIC CITY—The New Jersey Association of School Business Officials will host an exhibit and workshop at the Atlantic City Convention Center beginning at 8:30 a.m. (609) 895-7600.

COAH implements smart growth rules

TRENTON—The New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) announced at its September meeting that COAH is exploring components of a third round of smart growth rules.

"COAH would like to reiterate that its metropolitan policies implementing rules will be consistent with the Office of State Planning and smart growth," said Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Jane M. Kenney, who also serves as chairman of COAH.

The said COAH will respect the rules and policies of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), including those relating to CAFRA (Coastal Area Facility Review Act), the Pinelands Commission and the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Corporation (HMDC).

COAH has already held seven workshops to discuss the third round of low and moderate income housing needs for the state. The workshops were coordinated with the Housing and Urban Development, Pinelands, the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Corporation (HMDC).

COAH members are currently reviewing the input from these workshops and will further discuss the findings at a meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 1998.

RD Hunter launches new financial services business

PARAMUS—RD Hunter & Company LLP has launched Hunter Financial Services, a new company charged with assisting clients in developing personal financial plans, estate plans and managing investments based upon carefully planned objectives.

According to Thomas P. McNabola, partner with RD Hunter & Company LLP and president of the new company, "The new company by Hunter Financial Services will be fee-based, rather than on commission. "We have our roots in a conservative CPA practice that has earned a reputation by serving clients with the utmost professionalism," notes Mr. McNabola.

"A fee-based approach ensures that we, as managers of our clients' personal investments, will be acting on behalf of and in support of their investment goals. We feel that our service will be a welcome addition to those who are the frequent flyers worrying about how their investments

are being managed, and how they are tracking in terms of reaching their range of goals." Mr. McNabola notes.

The new company will operate from the Paramus offices of RD Hunter & Company LLP and New York City. "We anticipate these services will be attractive to the sophisticated client who works here are 401K providers, as well as human resource departments with corporate executives who are seeking trustworthy assistance in managing their personal financial plans. They simply don't have the time to manage their money or a desire of finding a professional manager who can provide high quality advice and good reporting. That's where Hunter Financial comes into play."

In conjunction with announcing the formation of the new company, Hunter Financial will hire an all-retained Certified Financial Planner

Jay Hesselgrave as Director of Investment Services. Mr. Hesselgrave is a distinguished investment and planning professional, having earned qualifications such as the Chartered Financial Planner.

"So many people go through life without planning and then wonder why, at 55, they have no way to reach financial security upon retirement," notes Mr. Hesselgrave. "Inasmuch as you won't know exactly what your comprehensive view of your financial health, and build a workable plan that will take you to your financial goals. Then, Hunter Financial works with other professionals to manage your investments to ensure that these plans are properly put into place and managed to your satisfaction."

For more information about Hunter Financial Services, Inc., contact Tom McNabola or Jay Hesselgrave at 201-261-4030.

House approves U.S. Chamber-backed H-1B visa increase

WASHINGTON—A U.S. Chamber of Commerce-backed measure to temporarily raise the number of H-1B visas granted to foreign professional workers was approved yesterday by the House of Representatives.

"Businesses — especially those in the high-tech sector — can benefit more easily from H-1B visas if we are able to increase the number of visas available to foreign skilled workers," said Randall Johnson, Chamber Vice President for Labor Policy. Foreign workers will enable businesses to remain competitive until they can hire and train Americans," he added.

Late Wednesday night, Congress reached an agreement with the Administration to temporarily increase the number of visas granted over a three-year period from 155,000 in the years 1999 and 2000, and to 167,000 in 2001. The H-1B non-immigrant visa category

enables U.S. employers to sponsor foreign professional workers engaged in specialty occupations such as engineers, scientists and mathematicians. Since the cap of visas was reached in May, businesses have been scrambling to find workers to meet their needs, some businesses have been forced to delay projects or put them on hold indefinitely until they can hire workers," said Johnson.

Additionally, the visa fees would be doubled, from \$250 to \$500 per applicant, with the funds being used to train domestic workers for jobs in which there is a shortage of qualified workers. Johnson said addressing the growing worker shortage is among the Chamber's top priorities. In addition to granting more H-1B visas, the Chamber is focusing on job training, bringing retirees back into the workplace, hiring more welfare recipients and disabled



House member Rep Donald Payne (D, NJ) voted on new increase.

Americans, and creating flexible workplaces.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation, representing more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region.

Eliminating debt

Dale G. Caldwell



Most of my columns have discussed planning for the financial future. However, many people have asked me for help in addressing their financial plan. This week I will discuss ways to reduce expenses and eliminate unwanted debt.

Too many Americans spend more money than they make. This spending is usually financed by consumer debt incurred through credit cards, car loans and personal loans. Over 1 million Americans file bankruptcy each year because they have too much bad debt and not enough good debt.

Good fine debt is debt that cannot be leveraged to make investments.

"So it will yield a rate of return that is higher than the interest rate of the debt. Conversely, I define good debt as debt that can be leveraged to make investments that will yield a rate of return that is higher than the interest rate of the debt."

The most common example of bad debt is credit card debt. Typically, this cost of credit card debt is 15 percent to 20 percent per year. Most people have credit card debt because they cannot afford to buy what they want.

I call credit card debt bad debt because it represents an investment in which you are guaranteed to lose 15% to 20% each year.

On the other hand, if you secure a bank loan to purchase a house that will increase in value faster than the interest rate of the loan and the rate of return of most good investments (i.e. mutual funds, bonds, stocks, etc.) you have financed a good investment.

Don't get me wrong, financial planning if you are saddled with a lot of bad debt. There are ways to turn your financial situation around and eliminate bad debt. Unfortunately, you will probably have to make some sacrifices that might painful.

There are three steps to eliminating bad debt. The first step is to change your attitude from that of a consumer to that of an investor. This means that before you buy something, you should consider the benefits of the purchase to the benefits of investing the same amount of money. The second step is to begin to pay down all of your bad debts. The third step is to minimize your expenses so that you can accelerate the rate at which you are paying off your bad debts.

I am frequently asked for hints on ways to minimize expenses. I have listed below some of the best ways to reduce your expenses with as little pain as possible. People are amazed at the amount of money that can be saved each month by following these expense reducing activities. There are numerous ways to minimize expenses. Some of the best ways include the following:

- Set up a budget and stick to it
- Keep only one major credit card and use it only for emergencies
- Use public transportation instead of a carpool or walk
- Use a used car instead of a new car
- Bring your lunch to work
- Use a grocery list and limit trips to the grocery store
- Take advantage of coupons when shopping (only for the items that you need)
- Buy pre-owned items at garage sales and thrift stores
- Get needed items in bulk
- Donate (for a tax write-off) or sell items that you don't need
- Use free community entertainment
- Keep your home thermometer high in the Summer and low in the Winter
- Use the phone book rather than calling information or driving • Borrow books/dvds/cassettes from the library for free

Doing these things may not seem like they will save you a lot of money. However, if you make a concerted effort to do as many of these things as possible you will be amazed by how much money you will save that can be used to pay down debt. A financial planner can help you develop a plan to eliminate bad debts and plan for your financial future.

Dale G. Caldwell is a Certified Management Consultant (CMC), a former Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and a National Director of Recruiting for Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group.

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Black people respond to targeted marketing campaigns

According to a report by Packaged Facts*, black people are highly receptive to financial services that are marketed to them. Example: Deluxe Corporation, by creating a check series commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, exceeded their market projections by 15%.

*Packaged Facts is a product of FIND/SVP Research Publications Group

2 great ways to reach the African-American Business & Professional Community



Minority Business Journal

Minority Business Journal

The Minority Business Journal is a monthly publication focusing on minority and women business enterprise in New Jersey and New York City. MBJ regularly features the accomplishments of minority and women businesses, information concerning maintaining and expanding business, opportunities available for minority entrepreneurs, a calendar of events, editorial and commentary - issues facing minority businesses.

MBJ offers an excellent forum for classified and display advertising and special business and professional card directories. MBJ provides an important communication link in the information network vital to the growth and development of minority communities.

Minority Business-to-Business Directory

The Minority Business-to-Business Directory is a directory of minority- and women-owned businesses and companies committed to doing business with minorities.

The Directory networks minority businesses, identifies minority and women businesses with whom public and private sector businesses and agencies can contract for products and services, and exposes a growing force of

minority businesses to the general consumer. The Directory features

listings and advertising as well as provides a resource guide for

minority and women entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs to help facilitate starting and maintaining a business. The Minority

Business-to-Business Directory includes listings from public and

private sector businesses and agencies, minority and women-owned

business and small business. A definition of ownership is provided with each listing. The Minority Business-to-Business Directory is a tool for the growth and expansion of minority and women entrepreneurs and economic development in the African-American community.

#2



Call (908) 754-3400 for more information

Minority Business Journal & Minority Business to Business Directory opens up a whole new world of possibility

Local Briefs

Hotline established to fight welfare fraud

ELIZABETH — The Union County Board of Freeholders recently announced a comprehensive effort to fight welfare fraud. The effort includes a toll free number, (877) WEL-FAKE, and bilingual billboards and printed materials to be distributed across the county to make use of what investigators say is one of their most important tools in tracking down welfare cheats: tips from neighbors and associates.

"When people cheat welfare, they're not just stealing money from taxpayers, they are taking away valuable resources from the children this program serves," said Freeholder Lewis Mingo, Jr. "We want to ensure that children in need receive the support they deserve."

Earlier this year, the county announced a major welfare reform effort entitled Sigs PLUS, which will provide job training and placement services for the longest-term recipients of assistance. The program will be funded through a \$5 million federal grant.

Cable station focuses on older New Jerseyans

TRENTON — The cable television Network of New Jersey (CTN) has begun to alter its programming in order to focus on older New Jerseyans, a well-educated and growing segment of the state's population. The new television lineup will make its debut in January of 1999.

Older New Jerseyans' (50 years) make up approximately 1.2 million of all residents of the state. This market is expected to expand tremendously as the so-called "baby boomers" reach ages 50 and as life expectancies continue to rise. "For the past 15 years CTN has strived to serve New Jersey in the public interest. The change is just a step farther in that direction," said James A. DeBont, CTN's Executive Director.

The network is currently doing research into the needs and interests of its audience. CTN is looking for ideas which would best serve its new viewers. To add an idea to the list or participate in a short programming interest survey call CTN at 1-(800) 421-0443.

Grant helps agency help compulsive gamblers

BOUND BROOK — Family and Community Services on Somerset County has received a grant for 1998 and 1999 to treat compulsive gamblers and their families. According to Dr. John D. DiMaggio, director of the Addiction Program, "Gambling abuse is continuing to be a major problem in Somerset and surrounding counties, effecting teenagers, adults and senior citizens. Georgan went on to say that Family and Community Services has been treating the gambler and their family members since 1986 with limited funding. "Now, with the help of this grant and some fundraising, we will be able to reach out even further into our community and no one will have to be turned away because of their inability to pay a fee."

The agency has locations throughout Somerset County. For more information on the short term and confidential program, call (732) 356-1082.

Collaborative effort to clear rail line

PLAINFIELD — Workers from Union County jail will clear brush and debris along the Raritan Valley Line in Plainfield at the Main Station on Tuesday, October 29 at 10:30 a.m.

NJ Transit will provide trucks, supervision and equipment, as well as safety training and gear for workers. Local railroad train operators of the work, County officers also will be on hand to supervise the workers. Once the workers from the Union County Jail have cleared the rail line, the City of Plainfield has agreed to dispose of the brush and weeds and NJ Transit has agreed to dispose of any remaining debris. The City of Plainfield will supervise the workers' activities under bridges and along roadways adjacent to the tracks.

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All become winners in volunteer basketball league

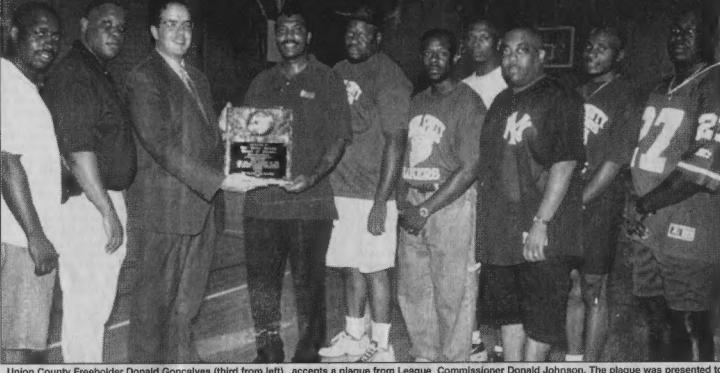
ELIZABETH — For Donald Johnson, Commissioner at the Union County Jail, the concept is simple. Give youngsters some time and attention now and you won't have to "process" them later.

As simple as it sounds, for the youngsters involved in the Micky Walker Basketball Youth Leagues, it has proven to be effective in keeping them out of trouble. It is Johnson, who is League Commissioner and his assistant commissioner, Sgt. Kenneth Houston, and their coaches, the program has been credited with keeping some 700-800 youths out of trouble since 1992 when it started.

Freeholder Donald Goncalves says, "The idea is that if the program is effective, it is very popular with the youth. On a recent evening with temperatures in the upper 90s and no air conditioning, the Micky Walker Center, on the corner of Anna and Division Streets, was packed with young players and their parents."

"You can't stress enough the value of programs like this. This is an example of dedication and willingness to give time and leadership paying off to the benefit of all. The youth gain valuable skills, and a sense of belonging. Plus, taxpayers of Union County don't pay a cent toward the program but gain by having less juvenile offenders processed through the system," Freeholder Goncalves added.

The volunteer program is staffed mostly by Union County Correction officers who donate three hours a night, three to four nights a week. Johnson, involved



Union County Freeholder Donald Goncalves (third from left), accepts a plaque from League Commissioner Donald Johnson. The plaque was presented to the group's appreciation for the support they receive from the Board of Freeholders. In photo, from left, are Corrections officer John W. Lewis, Sgt. Eric Williams, Goncalves, Commissioner Johnson, Officer Anthony Wilson, Stanley Champagne, Officer Wayne Pryor, Lauren Swaggerty, Sgt. Kenneth Houston and Officer Richard Jones.

since the beginning, said the program was the brain child of Prosecutor Hassan Abdella, who approached the late Prosecutor Andrew K. Ruotolo with the idea to offer a program to the youth living near the port area.

"He wanted to offer a productive program that would send the message to the kids that they are

valuable and cared about. Prosecutor Ruotolo supported the idea completely," Johnson said.

As Freeholder Goncalves looked on, Johnson also presented trophies to the leagues eight teams who participated in this year's games. Along with the trophies, one player received special recognition for their efforts. Quiana Porter, the only female player in

the league, was recognized. Johnson said he hopes the program would really like to get more girls involved in the game. "We want to stress that girls are just as important as the guys and that they should get involved," he said.

This year the league had approximately 96 players, ranging in age from 8-15, playing on eight teams each with at least one

coach. Johnson said that he is participating in the league because less than one percent of the children who have played in the league have gone on to commit a crime and, in fact, many have gone on to college, some on basketball scholarships.

"Not a bad record for a completely volunteer league," he concluded.

'Town Meetings' bring Strategic Plan to community

PLAINFIELD — Plainfield's Strategic Plan is hitting the road. Adopted by the City Council on September 21, the plan is being taken out to a series of Town Meetings where citizens can get a brief overview and have their questions about the Plan answered.

"We've promised residents awaiting the late-January neighborhood meetings when getting their input that we would be back with the finished plan, and now we have it to present," says Mayor Al McWilliams.

The plan has fifteen specific goals the city wants to achieve in the next two years in the areas of public safety and quality of life issues, appearance of the business districts and the residential neighborhoods, economic development and recreation.

Each of the meetings will be hosted by the councilperson representing that area, and will feature an invitation by Mayor McWilliams to the citizens to participate in the plan's fulfillment, and brief presentations by the plan's "champions," city department heads who have agreed to be responsible for segments of the plan.

The city's public information office has promised to have the plan up on the city's web site by the time of the first meeting, Thursday, October 1. It will be available at www.plainfield.com/stratplan.

The first of the four town meetings took place at the Clinton Elementary School, West 4th Street and Clinton Avenue, 4th Ward councilperson Harold Mitchell was the evening's host. The doors will open for each meeting at 7 p.m., and the meetings will get under way at 7:20 p.m.

Attendees will be given copies of the Plan's fifteen goals, its mission statement, core beliefs statement, the process used to create the plan, and lists of participants in the process. Copies of the full report will be available for purchase at each of the meetings.

Complete copies of the Plan are available for reference at the City Clerk's office, the Mayor's office and the Plainfield Public Library.

For more information about the Strategic Plan, contact the city's public information office at (908) 226-4905.

Two testify in officer's bias case

EAST ORANGE (AP) — Two East Orange police officers, including one who is president of a regional black police officers group, testified Friday that former East Orange Mayor Cardell Cooper was biased against them and had another white police chief.

News reports state the two officers said Cooper made the statement at a meeting of black police officers after directing that a tape recording of the session was stopped.

Delacy Davis, a 13-year veteran of the department who is now president of the New Jersey Black Police Association, testified in Newark that Cooper made the comments in 1993 during a meeting of the Kinsmen, a group of black East Orange officers.

Davis quoted the mayor as stating, "as long as he was mayor there would not be a white chief."

Davis related the incident during a federal court trial in which a white East Orange officer has charged that the city engaged in reverse discrimination by passing him over for the chief's post.

Capt. Richard Wright, a 30-year-veteran of the force, is pursuing a claim of reverse racial bias. He told the court he was offered a political deal to ensure that his candidate, current Chief Harry Harman, would be able to land the post even though he had placed sixth on the chief's exam. Wright had taken the top spot.

Attorneys for Wright have argued that because Cooper could only claim reverse racial bias if he was a finalist, he arranged to buy off two higher scoring white officers who agreed to drop out of the race, only to be rewarded later with appointments to newly created deputy chief positions.

A third black contender retired, and was quickly rehired in an appointed post with the board of education, Wright's lawyers said.

Local groups honor individuals in two tributes

Community activist, City News will receive recognition in separate events

EAST ORANGE — Addison McLean is a long time community activist that has served as a role model and mentor to a vast number of Jersey City and New Jersey residents. McLean, the first African American Assemblyman to be elected from the 31st district, with the focus of a tribute on October 17, 1998 at the Quality Inn, in Jersey City.

This tribute is long overdue and we are elated about the response received for the event," said Program Chairman Willie Flood. The African-American has really supported them, and it is fantastic to see so many people working harmoniously for such a wonderful individual."

The recognition ceremony will take place during the Eleventh Annual Awards Diners Dance on Saturday, October 17 at 7 p.m. at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark.

Those interested in purchas-

ing a ticket for the event should call (201) 435-7760 or (201) 332-3908.

The United Caribbean African Alliance, Inc. will honor Rob Hastick, President of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Jean Larson, Vice President of the United States Attorney, and Janice H. Johnson, Principals of City News Publishing Company.

The recognition ceremony will

begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 17, 1998 at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark.

For more information, please

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CITYNET

Vacation plans will 'Fall for New Jersey'

TRENTON — The Labor Day weekend in New Jersey doesn't signal the end of the vacation season — it's just the start.

Many people find the fall months the best time for a New Jersey holiday. It's a time of beautiful weather, temperate ocean water, smaller crowds and lower hotel rates. These factors, plus exciting and interesting activities such as engaging antique shopping and shows, delicious seafood festivals, classic car shows, beautiful nature walks and bird-watching expeditions.

Last month, a star-studded delegation promoting autumn tourism, Governor Christie, Whitman says, "Summer may be almost over, but that doesn't mean vacation season is over in New Jersey." She continues, "Add brilliant fall foliage tours and leaf-watching walks in the Delaware Water Gap are one of the many activities that can be shared by the whole family."

Visit fall foliage to the many wreaths at this time of year and you have the ideal season for enjoying the outdoors in New Jersey.

It could even be said that extended summer was invented in New Jersey because the Miss America pageant was created in 1921 to lure visitors to the beaches after Labor Day. Today that tradition extends to attractions statewide. One example is Six Flags Great Adventure, the country's largest amusement park and drive-through wildlife park. The park opens weekends in September and October in addition to several Friday nights. Other attractions that will give a fun day out of doors for kids and grownups are Gingerbread Castle in Hamburg, Wild West City in Millville, Turtleback Zoo in West Orange and the Nature Center in Cape May.

In addition to the recently-held Chowderfest weekend in Beach Haven, upcoming activities include the annual Atlantic Victorian Fair, which will take place in Cape May to celebrate the National Historic Landmarks heritage. Also scheduled: art exhibitions at the Monmouth Museum; "Atlantic City Fall Festival," featuring the world's largest indoor antique and collectible show in the New Atlantic City Convention Center on October 17 and 18, and the Atlantic City Film Festival on October 21-25.



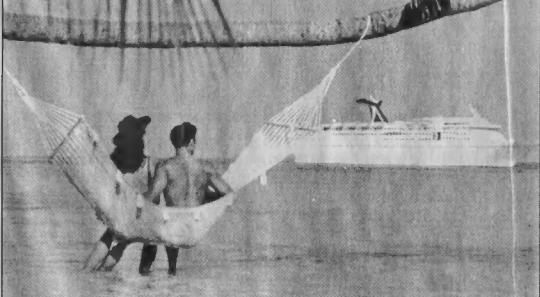
Fall foliage tours and leaf watching walks in the Delaware Water Gap are one of the many activities that can be shared by the whole family.



The cooler fall weather in Ocean Grove allows vacationers to bicycle on the boardwalk all day, rather than just in the early morning and late afternoon.

The recent Audubon Cape May Weekend featured workshops and bird watching field trips.

Autumn cruises makes for lovely vacations



Billing itself as "The Most Popular Cruise Line in the World," Carnival Cruise Lines travel to places like the Caribbean, Mexico, Alaska and Hawaii. Cruise lengths vary and include all your meals, almost too many activities to take advantage of and great entertainment.

FLORHAM PARK — If you're looking for an Autumn vacation that includes hiking, flying, swimming and sailing, what about a cruise? Of course, dreams of sun, sand, sea, gourmet dining, constant pampering and pure relaxation, a cruise should definitely be at the top of your list.

In fact, according to Sue Teich, assistant vice president of group travel for the New Jersey Automobile Club, today's cruises offer something for everyone. "With cruise prices ranging from budget to luxury and activities from adventure to romance, you can find a cruise that's perfect for you," said Teich.

"Cruises have expanded to new ships, destinations and shore excursions to suit a myriad of tastes and pocketbooks."

According to the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), last year more than five million vacationers chose to cruise. "And

with the ongoing addition of new luxury ships and destinations, this number is expected to increase by the end of this year," which said.

Teich pointed out that liners can relax on a luxury ocean liner that has everything from suites to shopping malls. "Or, if you prefer a more intimate setting, sail on a sleek windjammer and help hoist the sails." Teich added, "There is also a great year-round vacation option."

With cruise destinations that follow the sun and range from Alaska and the Caribbean to New Zealand and the Mediterranean, you can find a cruise vacation that's right for you.

"If you get the best price," she added,

"you should start planning your cruise a minimum of six months in advance. That way you have a better chance of getting the ship, sailing date and accommodations you really want," she continued.

Before visiting a travel agent, Teich recommends determining what kind of cruiser you are. "Think about what you like to do on vacation," she said. "Are you an active person who likes to make new friends or do you just want time alone with your partner? Are you an avid exerciser who wants to stick with your routine? Do you want to tour the city's capitals, hike a glacier and hang glide, or simply lounge by the pool?"

Cruises offer all of these options and more, including themed sailings ranging from wine and food to big bands and sports. You can also select a cruise that focuses on learning something new or a particular hobby.

And if you're not into shore excursions are there cruises that offer a ready-made gift, dinner or bridge partner? The key is, to tell your travel agent what you want so he or she can recommend the right cruise for you.

The all-inclusive price of a cruise makes it one of the best vacation values. "A cruise includes your room or cabin, 24-hour dining and room service and all shipboard activities including shows, first-run movies, lectures, theater and dancing. Many cruise lines also offer reduced fares for a third or forth person staying in your cabin and children."

"And, you can get even more value out of your cruise by adding

a pre- or post-tour land package," she added. "Also, ask your agent about airfare and transfers from your home to the port city."

Whether you're a single, couple or family, there's a cruise for you.

Cruise lines have also designed

their cabins and activities to accommodate the physically challenged.

Once you've selected the cruise line, ship and itinerary, the only dif-

ference you'll encounter is waiting to embark on your vacation of a lifetime.

For a free copy of the popular AAA brochure, "Smooth Sailing," which details these and other helpful cruise tips, send a self-addressed, stamped business-size envelope to Smooth Sailing, AAA Public Relations, 1 Hanover Road, Florham Park, NJ 07932.

International travel requires extra caution

In the wake of recent threats of reprisals by terrorists for U.S. military actions in the Sudan and Afghanistan, travelers should be extra cautious while visiting abroad or at airports in the United States.

For travel abroad, here are some important tips:

Review your travel, homeowner's and medical insurance policies to determine coverage for trip cancellation, interruption, loss, theft, accident or injury while overseas. If necessary, consider additional coverage.

Make photocopies of the identification page of your passport, credit cards and other wallet contents, a list of your travelers check numbers, and a copy of your itinerary to leave at home. If you are traveling alone, carry a copy of your itinerary with your passport photo in case replacement documents are needed while traveling.

Confirm your itinerary a few days prior to initial departure and before any flights en route.

Travelers should familiarize themselves with the local customs and political situation to avoid offensive behavior, inappropriate dress or breaking the law. Avoid strong and humor that could be misinterpreted.

Purchase an International Driving Permit, which, while not required for driving in all countries, translates key identification information into eight languages. IDP's cost \$10 and are

available at AAA New Jersey Automobile Club offices.

Obtain AAA's Offices To See You Abroad booklet. Plan to visit AAA's reciprocal foreign motor clubs for travel information, reservations or itinerary changes.

Keep your distance from stray luggage and packages left unattended in airports and other public places.

Invest in a detailed local map and prominently mark your hotel, office, friendly embassies, police stations and fire departments.

Hotel and airport taxis. Avoid those that pick up additional persons en route.

Avoid hotel representatives which streets and neighborhoods to avoid.

Dress conservatively. Avoid appearing as a tourist or touring your destination.

Don't discuss travel plans openly in public locations.

Avoid confrontation. Don't engage in conversations on potentially sensitive subjects.

Refrain from photographing national and police military installations and personnel, industrial structures unless you're sure it won't alarm anyone or break a law.

If you have any problems or uneasiness at your destination, visit the American or Canadian embassy to register your itinerary and hotel addresses.

In a "worldwide caution" the U.S.

Department of State urges Americans traveling or planning abroad to review their security services, to remain alert to the changing situation and to exercise much greater caution than usual."

American Embassy operations have been suspended in Somalia, Sudan, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Guinea-Bissau. The United States does not maintain diplomatic or consular posts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Libya and North Korea and no support services are available to Americans in these countries.

Family members and non-emergency personnel of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania have been authorized to depart. In Albania, Eritrea and Pakistan, non-emergency personnel and family members have been ordered to depart. Consular services in these countries have been reduced to minimal levels.

Travelers abroad should contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate by telephone or fax for up-to-date information on security conditions.

Current information is also available on the internet at <http://travel.state.gov>. In the United States, call 202-647-5225 for recorded information from the Department of State.

Religion

October 7- October 13, 1998

Religion Calendar

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

PLAINFIELD—Revivalist Dr. Christine Liddell will talk with the congregation of Rose of Sharon Christ Church beginning at 7:30 p.m. (908) 561-4211.

PATERSON—The General Baptist Convention of New Jersey will hold a discussion on society in the 90's beginning at 7:30 p.m. (973) 345-4309.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

GARWOOD—Rose of Sharon Church will host a pre-anniversary luncheon at the Westwood beginning at 12 noon. (732) 752-2390.

NEW BRUNSWICK—The Gifts of Love Outreach Ministries will hold a dinner sale beginning at 12 noon. (732) 418-1475 or location.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

PLAINFIELD—Evangelist Valerie Yancey will provide worship service for Women's Day beginning at 7:30 a.m. (908) 561-4211.

NEWARK—Sons of Christian Fellowship presents Gospel 98 starring Bobby Jones and the Nashville Choir at George Washington Carver School beginning at 8 p.m. (973) 416-1300.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

PLAINFIELD—Rose of Sharon Community Church will host a trip to King's Arthur Castle beginning at 8 a.m. (908) 561-6747 for information.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

PLAINFIELD—Rose of Sharon Community Church and CALF will host a bus ride to the New Jersey Zoo beginning at 8 a.m. (908) 561-6747.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

NEWARK—Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministry will celebrate its annual dinner at the Hotel beginning at 6:30 p.m. (973) 461-6650.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

NEWARK—Rev. Al Sharpton will address the congregation of First Mount Zion Baptist Church. Call (973) 242-4173.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

ATLANTA—Join us for the 3rd Annual Gospel Heritage Gala Concert & Awards. For detailed information, call 615-376-5656.

HAWTHORNE—The Northern NJ Sunday School Association will sponsor the 38th Annual Christian Education Convention through Oct. 24th at the Hawthorne Gospel Church. 1-800-383-4410 or 973-283-1540.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

HARITAN—Father Joseph C. Marian will give a lecture titled "Symptoms of Stress" at Raritan Community College beginning at 7:30 p.m. (732) 356-1082.

BOUND BROOK—The Family and Community Services of Somerset County present the lecture of internationally speaker Father Joseph C. Marian at Raritan Community College in North Branch beginning at 7:30 p.m. (732) 356-1082.

CDC stats support church's program

PERTH AMBOY—Teenagers in Perth Amboy have made a commitment to refrain from sexual activity until marriage at the Cathedral-Second Baptist Church. Last week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a report which disclosed a steady decline in the increasing rate of sexual intercourse among adolescents that began in the 1970s.

This is the second year the church has sponsored the event which calls for teens and teens to take part in training sessions which prepares them for the ceremony and the challenge of saying no to sex before marriage.

"Teens participating in programs like this are responding to the latest trends reported by CDC," they rejoice and stand with their teen boys and girls when they proudly say to the congregation and to their peers... we vow to stay abstinent," said Bishop Donald Hilliard Jr., senior pastor of The Cathedral-Second Baptist Church, one of the largest churches in New Jersey.

Local choir brings joy and hope over the world with the songs of the lord



Minister Gary Samuels and The United Eternal Voices in Christ are taking the gospel music scene by storm. The group has toured all over the country and world spreading the message of Christ.

The United Eternal Voices in Christ is a multi-ethnic gospel choir dedicated to spreading the Gospel throughout the nation. The United Eternal Voices in Christ is a collaborative effort between The Eternal Light Community Singers and The United Christ Praise Singers. The choir has been in existence for less than one year, yet has taken part in a variety of concerts and special events.

The choir debuted at the World Apollo Theater for the tenth anniversary of the Booker T. Washington Learning Center. On Decem-

ber 6, 1997, the choir debuted in New York City at the Lincoln Center under the direction of Minister Gary Samuels and Clinton Sanders. They have also appeared in concert with Rev. John P. Kee, Minister Donald Matloy and the Revival Temple Mass Choir for Gospel In Song Promotions. The choir has also appeared in the 1997 Annual Gospel Music Awards finale & J Productions in New Jersey, as well as ministering to the residents of the Rose M. Singer Correctional Facility at Rikers Island. In 1998 the choir had the privilege to sing at Riverbank State Park in Manhattan's "Tribute to the King" celebration

honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who was honored by radio personality Rev. Paul Stoen. In honor of Black History Month, the choir again was afforded the opportunity, to sing at Riverbank State Park as well as sponsor their first annual "Merriment Award and Gospel Extravaganza". Guests of honor included State Assemblyman The Honorable Keith J.T. Wright; Dorothy P. Hughes, Harlem business entrepreneur; The Rev. Leroy Ricky, founder of the Rev. Leroy Ricky Learning Center and Our Legacy Lady Child Care Program in New York and Newark.

The United Eternal Voices in Christ concerts are power packed, filled with a rich music heritage. They sing songs of the Negro Slaves,

and the civil rights struggle. It is blended in together with house sounding sounds of traditional and Contemporary Gospel. Organized by faith, taught by humility, and kept together by love, they accept the call of Christ to share joy through song. With a renewed spirit and a desire to bless those in need, the choir minister, The United Eternal Voices in Christ travels into places where ministry is needed. Singing original and newly arranged compositions their music is a complex blend of harmony, dynamics, and accents.

The United Eternal Voices in Christ is composed of preachers, teachers, evangelists, deacons, ushers, husbands and wives, and children, and everyone that loves the Lord.

Music producer putting gospel in the spotlight

A testimony from Minister Donald Malloy, Praise Fellowship Music Ministries

HACKENSACK

John Rogers decided back in 1992 to fulfill his desire to be a gospel promoter. It started with a desire to do something for his pastor, the late Rev. Richard H. Puryear, so he planned a musical program with an theme "Gospel In Song."

With special guests like the Rev. Milton Biggman and the late Bishop Jerry Banks the program became a success and a source of honor of God. Two years later it was incorporated and it's been on the move ever since. These gospel programs are spiritually inspired and family oriented. The name "Gospel In Song" means Good News and Glad Tidings.

For the past five years Rogers has presented Gospel In Song at a local church with Ms. Lora L. Shanno, the late Selwyn Rawls, Eternal Light Community Singers of New York City, Elder Timothy Wright and the Concert Choir, Minister Donald Malloy, Rev. Milton Biggman, Rev. John P. Kee and New Life Community Church.

One of the first programs given by Rogers was a benefit to feed the homeless and from that day until the present, he has been feeding hundreds with starving for words of encouragement and hope in the gospel song. These programs with their songs of inspiration and hope has sustained many under stress and hurting heart and has helped to dry many tearful eyes. Rogers realized that one thing that kept him in Christ centered and focused on the joy that Gospel music brings to the people. With an unmistakable twinkle in his eye and a serious but gentle smile, he gave the respect of his local peers as well as the "Superstars" of Gospel music.

To be used by God, is a statement he readily accepts, for he always thinks of others before he thinks of himself and has devoted his life to the ministry. He wants to do all the very best in gospel by using of the most talented in business and the best from the local churches.



Gospel Music Producer John Rogers

Rogers makes it his first order of business to treat each choir and soloist as someone important. With high accolades you are guaranteed a concert of the highest magnitude whether seeing a local choir or a well known recording artist.

Rogers produced Gospel programs for the City of Hackensack, New Jersey's 300th Anniversary; New Hope Baptist Church, Hackensack, New Jersey's 75th Anniversary; New Jersey's District 36th Veterans Association. The programs were set up by the organization to work with me to define the perimeters of the programs for the benefit of our Tri-State area. The programs produced by Rogers have won for him a great amount of recognition. In this world nothing comes easily except salvation. Working to bring joy to others often brings tears and broken promises. Promoting concerts is not easy, working with the media, photography, but his focus is turned towards God, approved by Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Ghost. John faces all disappointments with a smile and still bears an encouraging word to those in need.

End to end with a glow and in that theme in mind, we can say without a doubt that "Gospel In Songs" will be around for a long, long time.

Let's choose to be healthy

by Junius Ricardo Stanton

"Many people believe that health is the absence of physical symptoms, for one's health is being at one with your environment, being at one with your God, being at one with yourself. Health is not just physical, health is mental and emotional as well. Health is very important to your overall emotional state. That is why it is so important to think positive thoughts, to do positive deeds, to do greater acts of service, to speak kinder words to yourself. Health is not just about your physical body, it's about your mental and emotional body as well," said Dr. Andrea Sullivan, Naturopathic Physician.

We are in a health crisis in this country. Africans in America suffer disproportionately higher rates of life threatening conditions such as obesity, hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, addictions, cancer and HIV/AIDS. When you add the depression, frustration and anger which trigger the abuse, homicide and escalating suicide rates, the implications of negative health are mind boggling. We are literally killing ourselves.

The stresses of living in a thoroughly racist society have not abated. Special predators assert that African Americans are the only ones to truly suffer the facts tell a decidedly different story. Our dilemma is confronting and dealing with the hypocrisy and obvious contradictions between rhetoric and reality.

Divine Intelligence and Energy permeate every total being. How can we be inferior or less than? Inferior to whom? What can we be overwhelmed or overwhelmed when we have access to Divine Intelligence and Power?

We are spiritual beings enfolded in physical bodies. As such it is our responsibility to keep our bodies tuned in harmony with the indwelling spirit and intelligence. The best way to do that is to give it plenty of water, fresh whole food, exercise, rest, relaxation and recreation, and by thinking, speaking and adopting a lifestyle consistent with being the custodian of the vehicle that houses a spark of God.

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October 7 - October 13, 1998

Health Calendar

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

BELLE MEAD—The Cancer Foundation will provide free screenings for depression and anxiety at their fall seminar, "Living Well," by 4 p.m. (908) 251-1513.

NEWARK—South Israel Hospital will hold a seminar on depression amongst women and men beginning at 9 a.m. (973) 926-7024.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

CLARK—The Clark Library will offer courses to be certified in CPR procedures at the library beginning at 9:30 a.m. (732) 388-5939.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

TEANECK—Holy Name Hospital's Department of Rehabilitation Services will host a 4-week Speechreading beginning at 10 a.m. (201) 833-3006.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

PLAINFIELD—The Planned Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies Coalition will host a community forum on the United Families and Children Society, beginning at 9 a.m. (732) 699-0944.

RARITAN—The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at the Masonic Lafayette Lodge beginning at 5 p.m. (800) 256-6365.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

JERSEY CITY—The American Cancer Society will hold its fifth annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5K walk at Liberty State Park beginning at 11 a.m. (201) 507-9500.

Officials promote awareness for sickle-cell

NEW BRUNSWICK—Local officials and health experts at New Brunswick Affiliated Hospitals (NBAH) Blood Center to donate blood and educate the public about the need for blood donors—specifically of African-American descent to help people affected with sickle-cell disease.

Sickle-cell disease is an inherited disorder of the red blood cells that affects more than 80,000 people in all 50 states. About half of all sickle-cell disease is commonly found in the African-American population, Greeks, Italians, Latin Americans, and Native Americans have also been diagnosed with the disease.

While the disease is present in all nationalities, it is most often found in people of African-American descent, said Green (D-Plainfield). "By donating blood I hope to raise the public's awareness of how important it is for African Americans to donate blood and to help their children screened for the disease."

"It's important for all new moms to be screened at birth. Sickle-cell disease can be devastating, but if detected early it can be treated."

Sickle-cell disease causes anemia, jaundice, damage to the lungs, kidney and spleen, acute pain, and strokes. Most patients will not be cured of the disorder, medical care and blood transfusions can help manage and prevent the disease and serious complications of the disease.

Juli Asch, MD, Acting Chief of Pediatric Hematology at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School explained why there is a need for African-American blood donors and how they help Sick Cell patients.

"Only 5 percent of the African-American population donates blood," said Dr. Asch. Some children with Sickle-Cell Anemia need frequent blood transfusions to prevent life threatening reactions and have the best chance of not rejecting the blood, the blood should be as closely matched as possible. The best matched blood tends to be found in persons with similar ethnic backgrounds.

Also joining Green are Senator John A. Lynch (D-New Brunswick) and New Brunswick Mayor James Cahill. Plainfield Mayor Albert McWilliams, Plainfield Commissioner Harold Miller.

A teenager with Sickle Cell disease, Chrystal King age 14 of New Brunswick, also attended the event.

For more information about donating blood, call (732) 937-8757.

HeartBeat

Celebrities gather in D.C. to fight cancer

Norman Schwarzkopf, General Franklin united with cancer survivors, researchers, business leaders, doctors, patients, and families to demand that the cause, the care, and the cure of cancer be made top research and health care priorities in this country, organized by more than 500 organizations. THE MARCH... Coming Together To Conquer Cancer is the first-ever massive demonstration against cancer involving groups inside and also outside the cancer community.

In 1971 President Nixon declared a "war on cancer," pledging to find a cure within seven years. It's 27 years later, and we are still fighting the war," said Sen. Alan M. Simpson, President and two-time cancer survivor, Ellen Stovall.

This is the beginning of a large, ongoing movement to prevent, treat, and cure all forms of cancer with the commitment of the American people from all disciplines and walks of life, we will find a cure."

The impact of cancer continues to be staggering in the United States alone, more than 1,500 lives are lost to cancer each day. That's equivalent to four jumbo jets crashing a minute.

ing everyday. In addition, one in

two adults and one in three women will develop cancer in their lifetime, and cancer is the leading cause of non-accidental death in children under the age of 15.

THE MARCH was a broad-based collaboration among cancer survivors, advocates, and others for greater investment in cancer prevention, research, and quality healthcare for all Americans. The Sidney Kimmel Foundation for Cancer Research and the Milken Family Foundation are among the sponsors in 500 endorsed organizations, representing millions of Americans. The convening organizations include: National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, Friends of Cancer Research, International Cancer Council, and the Association for the Cure of the Prostate (CURE).

"Hundreds of thousands of lives are lost each year not because we lack the technology or the human resources to find a cure for cancer, but because we lack the research funds to finish the job," said Sidney Kimmel, presenting sponsor of THE MARCH. "Cancer touches us all, and on this day, America spoke out in an urgent call for a new federal commitment to cancer research and

ing benefit. Additional national endorsing organizations include: U.S. Conference of Mayors, AFL-CIO, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), National Council of LaRaza, National Partnership for Women & Families, YMCA of the USA, American Cancer Society.



Rev. Jesse L. Jackson was one of the many demonstrators at the fight against cancer rally in Washington D.C.

an end to this terrible disease."

Additional national endorsing organizations include: U.S. Conference of Mayors, AFL-CIO, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), National Council of LaRaza, National Partnership for Women & Families, YMCA of the USA, American Cancer Society.

Raising a healthy child in today's society

By Marian Wright Edelman

Eleven million children in America are not covered by health insurance. One in five uninsured children are black—that's about 2.5 million children, and 19% of all uninsured children had no health insurance in 1996. Every year a child is not covered by health insurance or Medicaid, or if you know such a child I have important information for you.

That's to say, in every state Children's Health Insurance Program, children have the opportunity to receive the medical coverage that will ensure their healthy development, and their ability to reach their potential.

However, it's important that you know this program will not receive health coverage through this new program automatically. Parents must apply for it. A lot of parents don't know about this yet, and they don't know where to go to apply or get information. It's going to take action

by concerned neighbors, community leaders, and child advocates to make sure children and families get the help they need. Here's what you need to know about how to proceed.

The CHIP program is designed to help children in families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid but too low to afford family coverage. It is the most significant funding increase for children's health since Medicaid was enacted by Congress in 1965. The program provides \$4 billion a year in grants for states to cover uninsured children. Almost all states and the District of Columbia are planning to offer this coverage.

In most states, a working family of four earning up to \$32,900 a year would qualify for CHIP. Call down to a local hospital, care, regular check-ups, immunizations, glasses, doctor visits, antiprivation drug coverage.

Each state program has its own name, eligibility requirements, and range of benefits, and you'll need to

call your state to find out how to apply. If you have a computer or you can use one at your local library, you can visit the Children's Defense Fund's Web site at www.childrensdefense.org and you'll be able to get the information you need to apply as well as details about the benefits and costs of your state's program and what you need to do to apply, as well as a flyer on your state's CHIP program.

If you don't have access to a computer, you can call 1-800-433-1982 and press option 2. Leave a message including your name, organization, address, phone and fax numbers, and the state you want to know about, and we will fax or mail you the information you need. Please spread the word about this free or low-cost health insurance for children. Tell your friends and neighbors about the Children's Health Insurance Program. You could post flyers about it in child care centers and schools, and insert flyers in your

National Breast Cancer Coalition, American Association for Cancer Research, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Oncology Nursing Society, Leukemia Society of America, American Academy of Prostate, Friends of the Earth, and the National Prostate Cancer Coalition.

Dr. LaSalle Leffall, Jr., M.D., the Charles R. Drew Professor of Surgery, Howard University College of Medicine, said, "Cancer is the second leading cause of death for African Americans according to the American Cancer Society. African-Americans are about 30% more likely to die of cancer than whites. It is time for us all to stand together, demand access to quality care, to unite all Americans and to respond from the National March on unity voice, NO MORE CANCER."

"The remarkable increase in the survival of children with cancer over the past three decades can be attributed to the work of Dr. Daniel Hammond of the National Childhood Cancer Foundation. "If we don't make research a top priority now and ensure access to quality care, we could lose much of the progress that has been achieved."

On-Line guidance for choosing long-term care

TRENTON—State Commissioner Len Feldman today announced the department's informative and highly popular consumer guide "Selecting a Long-Term Care Setting" is now available on the department's web site, www.state.nj.us/hsbc/.

"Choosing a nursing home is a difficult decision which oftentimes is made very quickly and under stressful conditions," Fishman said.

This user-friendly and practical guide leads consumers step-by-step through the selection process. It helps a consumer choose the right long term care setting easier both for the prospective resident and a facility.

The new web site guide features easy-to-find, comprehensive information on how to select long-term care options, including nursing homes, assisted living facilities and alternate family care homes. It contains county-by-county directory of long term care facilities and information and assistance resources. It also includes information on financing options, specialized care and facility inspection reports. It also contains a checklist of specific questions consumers should ask when they call or visit a facility.

Information in the guide is easy to read and easy to locate. The guide contains nearly hyper-links which allow consumers to set their own way to gathering the facts they'll need to make the right long term care decisions.

Persons who are unable to access to the Internet from their homes or a local library, can get a printed version of the guide by calling 1-800-367-6543.

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Healthcare reaches out

IRVINGTON — Referrals are now being taken for the county-wide Telephone Referral Program. Funded through a grant from the Essex County Division on Aging, this no-cost program at Irvington General Hospital is available to all Essex County residents age 60 and older who would benefit from telephone support contact a day care center.

Each caller is trained to offer words of support, check on physical and emotional well-being, and to connect emergency services if needed. Calls are made at a time which is agreeable to both parties.

If you or anyone you know in your building or neighborhood lives alone and has no family living nearby, the staff at Irvington General Hospital can reach out and check on their well being and offer a friendly voice. For more information, or to make a referral, call Celia Kearney, Coordinator of Community Programs, at 973 399-6409.

Irvington General Hospital, located at 832 Chancellor Avenue, is an affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System.

Commissioner launches statewide health program

ATLANTIC CITY—Citing influenza and pneumococcal diseases as the fifth leading cause of death for New Jersey seniors, Health and Senior Services Commissioner Len Feldman today announced the first mobile immunization clinic held inside an Atlantic City casino to urge seniors statewide to "get the flu shot and the pneumo shot" this fall.

Flu and pneumonia are nasty killers of older adults, together claiming the lives of nearly 2,000 New Jersey seniors each year," Fishman said. "We are fortunate to have very effective vaccines but we need to do a better job getting seniors immunized."

To kickoff this effort, the commissioner announced a statewide education campaign targeting both seniors and health care providers. The campaign, through its slogan and supporting materials, urges seniors to "Get the Flu Shot and the Pneumococcal Shot." It also encourages physicians and other health care providers to offer vaccinations to their patients age 65 and older.

The commissioner made the announcement at Trump Taj Mahal Hotel & Casino, which, along with Bally's, Borgata, Plaza, and Tropicana Hotel & Resort, this week became the first casinos in New Jersey to host immunization clinics.

The clinics were sponsored by the casinos, the department, the Peer Review Organization of New Jersey (PRONJ), and the Atlantic City Health Department. Atlantic County Division of Intergovernmental Services, Atlantic City Medical Center, Shore Memorial Hospital and Merck Vaccines. More than 1,000 shots were expected to be given during the first day of the campaign.

Joining Fishman at the recent announcement were State Senator Bill Gormley, Atlantic County Executive Richard Squires, Atlantic City Council President Rosalind Novak-Nance and Ron Altman, Principal Clinical Coordinator of PRONJ.

The "Get the Flu Shot and the Pneumococcal Shot" campaign includes educational senior centers, senior organizations and health care providers. The Department of Health and Senior Services and PRONJ are also working with doctors, hospitals, nursing homes, local boards of health, visiting nurse associations, and health maintenance organizations. Over 7,000 seniors statewide will receive the new statewide mobile campaign tool kits containing fact sheets, fliers, posters, immunization record cards, and color-coded patient chart reminder notes.



about Muhlenberg's Caregiver Seminar

The AdultCare Program at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center will sponsor a FREE six-part caregiver information and support seminar:

Aging: Issues for Those Who Care
Wednesdays and Fridays, 7 - 9 p.m.
October 14 - 30, 1998

Muhlenberg's Adult Medical Day Care Center

Pre-registration is required. Supervision for disabled elders will be provided. For more information or to register, call (908) 668-2328

A generous grant from The Grotta Foundation has helped make this program possible

The Adult Medical Day Care Center at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center provides care, support, companionship and counseling for elderly and handicapped adults who require supervision during daytime hours. Enrollment is now open. For more information call the Adult Medical Day Care Center at (908) 668-2328.



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Home

City News B4

October 7 - October 13, 1988

Beautifying your home at the push of a button

MINNEAPOLIS (ARA) — Technology can do wonderful things these days. One of the nice things if you're a cynic like me is helping you finish your next wallpaper project FAST! You may want to scan floral patterns, or you may have a pattern in your imagination and want to know if it exists...and so if, where do you get it?

In fact, you don't have to go to a wallpaper store, (or several) browsed through dealer sample books, and with any luck found a suitable pattern. Today, a quick trip to www.wallpaperguide.com allows you to select a subject/category and quickly find wallpaper patterns that match your interest.

Jim Trickey, president and founder of "The Wallpaper Guide," considered that the prime consumer buyers of wallpaper work full time

and don't have the opportunity to shop for wallpaper as their mothers did. "More consumers now have access to the Internet and can purchase through wallpaper samples at home during the evening hours," states Trickey.

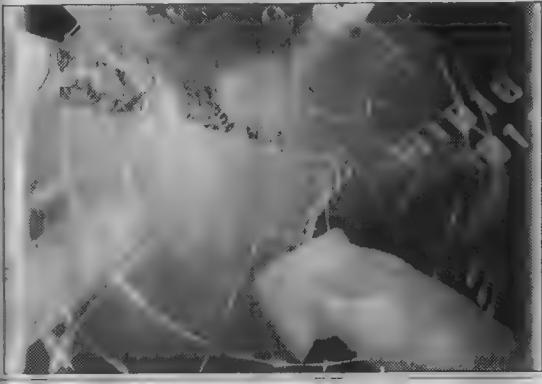
After helping you locate the appropriate pattern, The Wallpaper Guide points the way to local stores that carry the product. Simply type in your zip code, and voila! You've got local dealer information at your fingertips.

You can print out the pattern and hit a hyperlink to a store's own homepage to retrieve an address, phone number and directions. The main benefits are obvious, with a minimum of effort, you can go directly to the store that has the pattern you want and avoid the frustrating "hit-or-miss" results of shopping at several stores.

"While helping consumers locate

the right product is our primary goal, we don't want to stop there," adds the president of The Guide. "People inevitably have questions, so we provide links to practical how-to demonstrations, such as 'Decorating With Borders.' A Products and Services link also offers helpful products, such as vinyl wallcovering, floor coverings, etc. Other wallpaper publications are also available to help you gather the information you need to decorate your home."

So, whether you are looking for wallpaper borders with training green vines, or a large-scale floral pattern for your son's room, head to your computer. Type in www.wallpaperguide.com and select the appropriate pattern subject. It's a treasure hunt that's likely to end with the perfect payoff adorning your wall!



The art of the meal goes beyond your table setting

MINNEAPOLIS (ARA) — When you're planning your next dinner party, along with finding the freshest produce and the best cut of meat, consider spicing up your dining room or kitchen walls with what Minneapolis artist Pamela Luer refers to as "Gourmet Art."

After all, a sumptuous meal is as much about presentation as it is about taste. Perhaps this is why today's gourmet cooks — amateur and professional alike — are taking to heart the words of the artist: "Food is art, art is food." And people. And why artists, like Luer, are finding a welcome home — both in big corporate restaurants like Bakers Square and in intimate family kitchens like those of Pam Wagner — for their work.

"I was looking for something that made a statement — that would immediately grab your attention," says saying this is a place that deals with food," explains Wagner, whose newly remodeled kitchen is adorned with a fresh-cut-life (four foot by three foot) pastel still life of fresh onions, garlic, and vine-ripen tomatoes created by Ms. Luer. "The intensity of Pam's colors blew me away."

Luer hasn't always painted such large-scale Gourmet Art for restaurants and individual collectors. Still, as an artist, she had long known that her medium — pastel on gessoed canvas — lent itself to vibrant recreations of fruits and vegetables.

Luer actually began "living large" after a chance meeting in a Mailbox Etc., with restaurant designer Jeff Thompson, president of Minneapolis-based Entertainment. After Thompson saw some of Luer's work for greeting cards, Thompson asked Luer if she could bump up the average size of her paintings from inches to feet.

"She looked at me like I was crazy," Thompson recalls. "But then she took my business card and said she'd get back to me." When Luer found she could secure sandpaper in the appropriate sizes, she contacted Thompson who immediately commissioned four pieces for Harrah's Casino, which has restaurants in Memphis, Kansas City, and several other metropolitan locations.

"Pam did one of an eggplant and asparagus that was four-feet by five-foot. It was spectacular," said Thompson, adding that the painting hangs in a 500-seat buffet called Fresh Market.

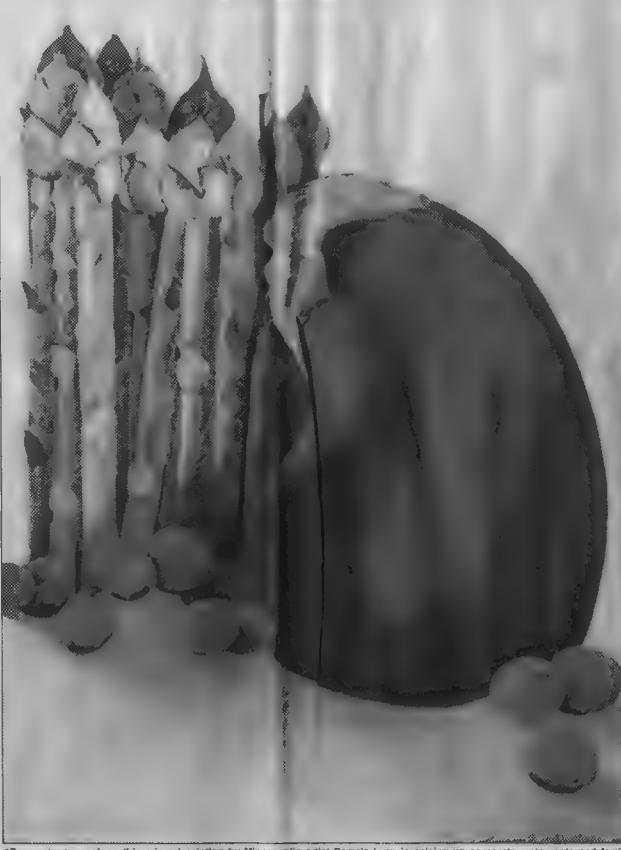
Luer's move to a larger format has been well received by individuals such as Wagner as well. "Pam shared a piece with me that she had painted for a restaurant," Wagner notes. Feeling as though the size and subject matter provided the perfect focal point for her recently remodeled kitchen, she asked Luer to create a custom piece.

As she does with all her clients, Luer begins by discussing the details with Wagner. In addition to size, content, and location, they reviewed the room colors. "Colors are an important parameter to start from," Luer explains. "It's also helpful to have an idea of the lighting and how far away people are likely to be when they view my work."

Tony Luer's paintings range in size from 1/2 inch by 1/2 inch (for a Bakers Square pie menu) to six feet by three feet. When discussing content, she says her clients are either very specific about what they want, as was Wagner, a lover of Italian and Mexican cooking, or wide open to her suggestions. Luer first offers a sketch for clients to review. Then upon approval, begins the full-size (or over-sized) Gourmet Art painting.

Luer, who counts fellow Wisconsinite Georgia O'Keeffe among her influences, seems pleased by the surging national interest in the fruits (and vegetables) of her labors. "I have this T-shirt that says, 'Good Art Doesn't Match Your Sofa,' which I think is hilarious. But these days, I'm tempted to add a P.S.: 'But it can match your dinnerware.'

For more information on Luer's work, call (612) 925-1400.



"Gourmet art," such as this original painting by Minneapolis artist Pamela Luer, is spicing up corporate restaurants and family kitchens.

Consumer Column

Inexpensive ways to spruce up the exterior of your home

MINNEAPOLIS (ARA) — Bringing new life to the exterior of your house doesn't have to be a major undertaking, requiring extensive landscaping or painting. Small projects that you can do yourself can transform the appearance of your home, giving it a fresh, clean look.

There are a variety of quick, inexpensive space-ups that can make a real difference, says Linda Madolen, marketing manager for Wright Products, America's #1 manufacturer of storm and screen door hardware. She offers the following suggestions:

Paint your front door and/or trim. Pick a new accent color that draws attention to your entrance. From classic to adventurous, this is a great way to give your house a whole new character.

Upgrade your door fixtures. "Many of our customers are surprised how dramatically a new door latch or lock can add to the appearance of their home," notes Madolen. "Our Accents line is especially popular because the brass-look electroplated finish often has the beauty of solid brass but at a fraction of the cost per door handle. Changing your storm door latch is an opportunity to upgrade the safety of your home as well, as we offer several deadlock accessories that complement our latches."

Change or expand your outdoor lighting. Whether you select new light fixtures to frame your front door or add landscape lights along your front walkway, lighting can make a dramatic change in your home.

Plant flowers and herbs.

Fill planters with ferns and flowers.

Place them on your porch, among your bushes, wherever they can add a splash of color or life.

Can visitors easily identify your house? Creative selection and placement of your address numerals is both practical and decorative.

Spice up your mailbox! How about a new mailbox? Again, this is a great opportunity to personalize a necessary home accessory.

Roll out the welcome mat. Often overlooked, but always useful, your doormat can express your sense of style and warm the entry to your home.

Based in Rice Lake, Wis., Wright Products creates and distributes America's premier line of latches, handles, deadbolts, door knobs, and miscellaneouss door components for standard and screen doors. From ornately ornate to classic or contemporary, Wright products are used by more than 90 percent of America's storm and screen door manufacturers. For more information on their products, their designer latches and locks, call (800) 972-2792, or look for their products in leading home center and hardware stores.

For more information, contact Linda Madolen, Wright Products, 715/634-7077, or Jim Shultz, Ad Com, 612/281-1467.

Trick those goblins with healthier halloween treats!

MINNEAPOLIS (ARA)

When ghosts and goblins come knocking on your door this Halloween, "Trick or Treat," you can do both. Offer them a nutritious treat that will trick their taste-buds and satisfy even the biggest candy monsters.

Single-serving boxes of raisins, the same individual appeal as miniature candy bars. They're sweet and chewy and packed with natural energy.

Several food manufacturers are marketing fruit snacks shaped like

your children's favorite cartoon characters. Also available in single-serving packages, they are easy to distribute to hand-holding ghouls and warlocks. Dried banana chips and fruit rolls are other sweet alternatives.

Small packages of peanuts, trail mix or pumpkin seeds add a little crunch to the Halloween mix, not to mention granola bars. All are readily available at the local grocery store.

Fall harvests provide an abundance of apples and pears. Despite

the threat of tampering in recent years, fruit is still a healthy alternative to candy. If you're worried about fruit in the neighborhood children you know well, remind them to wash it thoroughly and cut it up before they eat it. Or, you may opt for single serving containers of applesauce.

Miniature peanut butter and cracker snack packs are always popular and are also available with peanut butter and crackers, pretzels and cheese, etc.

Ambitious Halloween hosts may wish to make their own treats.

distribute. Flavored popcorn is quick to make and easy to divide into small portions. Popular flavors include some of the following: flavor: garlic salt, seasoned salt, hickory-flavored salt, finely grated American parmesan cheese, dry sour mix, bacon bits, or one-tablespoon melted peanut butter with one-tablespoon brown sugar (for every two cups of popcorn).

Mini pumpkin muffins are a unique treat and a great way to use up extra pumpkins.

Sugared bubble gum is a non-

treat treat that keeps kids happy and satisfies parents who worry about the amount of sugar their children eat. Items that appeal to children include stickers, balloons, marbles, colorful pencils, shaped erasers and small plastic toys such as whistles, squirt guns and cars.

Add a healthy twist to your Halloween treats and chances are your ghoulish visitors won't even know that they've been tricked!

Sugared bubble gum is a non-

HOME

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Jobs

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October 7 - October 13, 1998

Making the right choice

Much like choosing a major, your job search begins with you. Your decision depends on your interests, your strengths and weaknesses and your values. Until you know these things, you won't be able to answer the question, "What do I want to do?" The first step, is self-assessment.

First stop:

Library

The best place to begin is at the library. There are many books and on-line databases available for your usage, and it's all for free. There may be time limits for using the computer, but you can always look at books and borrow them. Review different careers and the skills and education required to excel in them.

Second stop:

Computer

If you own a computer or have access to one, you can explore the Internet, jump on the web and download lots of resources and information about careers, the job search and employment practices, availability and trends.

Third stop:

Career Center

There may be one of these at your school, a local college or as a state-operated job opportunity center. Check information for the phone number and times of operation. These places also have the lowdown on what it requires to perform each career, as well as how much you can earn in each career. These centers also hold career fairs where you can talk to people about their careers or other careers within their company. Check databases here and job listings also.

Fourth stop:

Networking

Contact someone in your prospective field and ask if you can conduct an informational interview. You can also ask for feedback on resume and develop contacts. Look for professional societies within your field of interest and join them. There is a lot of room for networking in these societies and



You can definitely learn more about your field of interest.

Fifth stop:

Internships

The best way to get experience and learn about your chosen field at the same time is an internship. More often than not, these positions don't pay. Sometimes there is a stipend or transportation allowance. The pluses here are real-deal exposure and hands-on-experience in your chosen field.

Most importantly, you must assess your skills and interests. Match them with career possibilities, and research the education required for those fields. Figure out which fields you would like to pursue. Set up your strategic plan and begin executing it, based on a timetable. And don't forget to follow up on everything.

Job vs. Career What is the difference?

What is the difference between a job and a career? Webster's New World Dictionary says that a job is a piece of work done by agreement for pay. It also says it is a task or chore; while a career is defined as a profession or occupation which one trains for lifework. A career is the pursuit of consecutive progressive achievement. Basically, a career is something you build over a period

of time. It is a goal that you aspire to, getting there through hard work and determination. A job is more like something that just pays your bills or meets your current needs. For instance, you might have a job at a fast-food joint, but it becomes a career if you advance and grow within the company or similar types of companies. A job isn't a bad thing. It can help you lead to a

career. But if you have a series of unrelated jobs, you're probably not working towards a goal or a career. For instance, you do data entry for a law firm for a couple of months, then you press clothes at the cleaners. None of these jobs are related. So they become jobs with no potential. Use jobs to build experience, to build your knowledge base and marketability for your future employers.

You can pick up communication skills, an ability to work well with others, the ability to learn skills quickly or flexibility. Change is not a bad thing, even people who choose careers often change their mind. The important thing is to find something that is rewarding or fulfilling—something you like to do, that makes you happy. That's really what success is all about.

Researching available job fields

...what's hot & what's not

There are 10 areas/field where people report they would most like to work. Check your choices again, because the job market is changing! List I details the areas most people are moving into. It lists List II, an area where most jobs will be available in the coming years and List III details fields that will be exceedingly competitive due to lack of positions available.

LIST I The kind of work you want

Professional
Teaching
Studio or performing arts
Technical
Protective services
Clerical
Service Work
Government/public sector
Military
Crafts
Other



LIST II Where most opportunities will be available

Adult education
Chiropractors
Computer scientists and systems analysts
Construction and building inspectors
Cosmetologists
Engineering, science and data processing managers
Funeral directors
Health service managers
Human service workers

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Head of the class:
Kick this year
in with the
right attitude

Okay, so school's back in session and you still have summer on the brain. Getting back into the swing of school can be an arduous feat. As homework assignments, in-class discussions, and after-school activities resume there are ways to ease your way back into the school mindset. Below are some study tips to get you on your way:

Set your priorities: Your friend calls and entices you with a trip to the mall. But, wait, you haven't finished your math homework and pop-quizzes are definitely a possibility. Decide what's important. Is getting an "A" in math test? Determine your priorities and make the choice to do those things that are going to move you toward your goals.

Learn to manage your time: Make a time schedule grid. Plot the day of the week across the top of a page and the time of day by hour down the left hand side. Fill in a task for each hour on the time schedule. Start your day with the hour you wake up. If you have time, go to sleep. Busy students find that blocking out space for study time, sports, relaxation, parties and other activities, gives them a good idea of how to best set priorities. Start getting an organizer or planner to help you get on the right track.

Get to know your study style: Do you work best in the library, at your kitchen table, or at the desk in your bedroom? Everyone has places they like to work or learn in. Get down to business so you can bust out those straight "A's". Time spent studying should be time when you concentrate. Put a snack or drink close at hand, turn off the phone and the TV, and turn off the computer and get busy. The best way to concentrate is to be by yourself with no distractions.

Set goals: Now after you've gotten through all of that, set a score, that is it all for? In other words, what's the point? We all know education is that path to bigger and better things. But what exactly do you plan to do with your education? This is where setting your goals come into play. Goals let you see the bigger picture in any situation. Goals are a destination on this map called life. By writing down your goals, you can plot the steps you have to take in order to get to your destination.

Make a list of five goals in your academic and social life. For example, you may list "I will attend Morehouse University" for an academic goal. Under each goal list five things you have to do to obtain that goal. For example, under the "Morehouse University" goal, talk to 3.5 GPA, get a 1200 on the S.A.T., talk to some Morehouse students, etc.

Look at your list often so that you can get the big picture in mind, whenever things get tough, or you need help in setting priorities.

YES WEEKLY

Community comes together to build 'Teen Wellness'

By Lucy Sanchez
Contributing writer

Teachers, community members and the youth came together to increase awareness about teen smoking on Saturday, October 23, 1998 at Plainfield High School. The resulting rally from a 1996 survey raised the need for the "Teen Wellness" program which included a guest lecturer, a youth panel and information booths.

10% of Plainfield families live in poverty. Of the 1,000 students of 1997 were teens, 112 teen pregnancies at Muhlenberg hospital, 42% of surveyed high school seniors drink alcohol. 26% of ninth graders thought about suicide within the last 30 days.

The time we're spending on drug free schools needs to be spent on drug free homes," stated Johnson, "because that's where the problems are."

A member of the teenage panel, Heather Kane placed responsibility on the adults and the youth. The Plainfield Coalition, the Plainfield School Board and the members of the community to devise more interesting activities for the youth such as a movie theater, bowling alley, or a recreation center.

"Long periods of unsupervised time is the problem," stated Kane, "and something needs to be done about it. If my time is supervised you won't be able to be on the corner, or in somebody else's bed!"

The other members of the panel were Rachel Smith, Latisha Butler, Tahika McDonald and Naias Means. They all stressed the importance of getting up in Plainfield and dealing with peer pressure, teenage pregnancy, drugs, violence, academic achievement as well as community support.

"My life is not all that great," stated the softly spoken Means. "All I really want to do now is take care of my two kids and go to school."

Butler, a Plainfield High School senior, said she got help from her parents to help from community organizations.

The college student raises her son, works part-time and deals with the trials of college work. "A lot of people tend to think there is nothing out there for them," stated Butler. "My son went to the teen parenting center while I was in school. Teen parenting

center" was always there for me."

Teen sexuality and risky behavior may not be one of the easiest topics for youth to discuss with their parents therefore, the community organized alternate routes such as peer affiliates and an open forum for parents of teens. Dr. Jennifer Durham, youth liaison for Plainfield Peer Educators and member of Plainfield Coalition offers such a program which the youth provide each other with pamphlets, condoms and support. "They also earn 2-5 credits for this," stated Durham.

"The message is that there is a lot of resources in the community that may not know about with issues relating to sexuality and health," stated Durham. "If they are going through something that they know they are not alone because there is someone who is drenched with resources that can help."

The evening ended with open discussion with the audience as they collaborated on ideas to curb unsupervised time, reduce violence and unsafe sexual practice as well as increase community and family involvement and encouragement.

Wyse Picks

By Uncle Wyse
Staff writer

Okay, so what makes this music column any different from the thousands of others you read in the thousands of Hip-Hop magazines? Not much, because I read the same magazines you read. There is a difference though. This column won't credit an album just because the artist might be all hyped-up by the mainstream. In addition, your parents won't trip when they see you reading the week's picks. Because we can keep it clean and real at the same time. Alright baby, lets get it on!

This week we're checking out Hill's first solo release, for one of 1998's best albums, for *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill* (RCA House/Columbia). This is an album that true Hip-Hop heads have been waiting for since she first stepped on the scene in '93 with the Fugees' debut *Rebirth of Slick*. *Laundry* surprised and impressed with this album. Not only has she dropped the hip hop skills that have made her one of the best female artist Hip-Hop has ever seen or heard, but she shows her ability as a songwriter, producer, singer, and still maintains her political and social awareness that made her become veterans of Public Enemy's Chuck D describe her as "sunlight" and a "Bob Marley of the 21st Century".

The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill is bubbling with so many styles and grooves, you have songs for any mood or any time. Cut tracks include "Doo Wop" and "Lost Ones" are definitely party starters. Other cuts like "I Used to Love Him", "Ex-Factor", and "Joy of My World is in Zion" show us another side of Lauryn that goes deeper than bass lines. Her most recent album has featured guest such as D'Angelo and Mary J. Blige, that contribute to an already great arrangement.

Over all, the album is top quality and will prove to be one of Hip-Hop's classics. Sorry, no mc's here, no stars or any future rating system. Just raw and real. That's what we're about. A word from the Wyse. Do yourself a favor and get this album. No disappointments here. Peace.

Choices: Are you making the right ones?

Everyone has to make decisions.

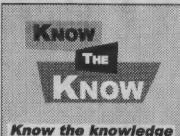
Unfortunately, some people make better choices than others. Think about it. Why choose you make has an outcome about it? You decide to go to an early movie, or you wake up late, or you go to sleep. Busy students find that blocking out space for study time, sports, relaxation, parties and other activities, gives them a good idea of how to best set priorities. Start getting an organizer or planner to help you get on the right track.

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Did you know?

The penny is the only coin where a president's face, Lincoln, faces the right as opposed to the left? Could this be because he freed the slaves?

comes, says Michael. "If someone tells you 'you can't,' say 'I can.' When someone tells you 'you won't,' say 'I will,'" explains Michael. Many times Michael joins a gang because he was fed up with his mother. Michael's mom would, many teens begin to believe this, says Michael. No matter what, do what you know is right. In other words, "Go for what you know."

Develop a sense of humor: Life is not always rough. Many times we have to be able to laugh, so that when I cry. Taking life for granted can weigh on that positive mental attitude. If we were to get angry everyday someone we didn't like, you'd probably get that permanent angry look on your face. You know, one you see people walking around with. It's not funny to smile in tough situations. Keeping things in perspective will surely help you make decisions in a cool state of mind. Becoming an adult, means having the ability to make choices. The key to being a successful adult is making the right choices.



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Newark Public Schools
Business Development Workshop

Doing Business With the Newark Public Schools

The Newark Public Schools is committed to expanding business opportunities for minority/women owned, small/disadvantaged and Newark-based entrepreneurs. In keeping with that commitment the District is presenting a workshop, Doing Business with The Newark Public Schools.

The workshop is designed to facilitate developing business relationships and opportunities. Participants will have the opportunity to meet with staff and discuss current and future opportunities for involvement with District business activities including procurement of goods and services and participation in construction projects. The event will take place Friday, October 16 at 2pm in the 10th floor conference room at 2 Cedar Street, Newark, NJ.

Those interested in attending should RSVP, using the form below, to Don Johnson, Affirmative Action Office, Room 1005, 2 Cedar Street, Newark, NJ 07102. Questions should be directed to (973) 733-8764. Fax Number 973-733-6834.

Print Name	AA Workshop	Date
Name of Representative		10/16/98
Street Address		Name of Firm
Area Code and Phone Number		City, State, Zip
		Fax Number